

The most delectable

# HISTORY

OF *Reynarde the Fox.*

## Reynard the Fox.

Newly Corrected and purged from all  
grossnesse in Phrase and matter.

As also augmented and enlarged with sundry excellent  
Moralls and Expositions upon every severall  
Chapter.



London Printed by J. Bell at the East-End of Christ Church. 1650.

Dear My: advice to thee I now will  
how to behave your self. <sup>and</sup> whilst you  
do live

you are no doubt now in your prime:  
Morning and evening you must him

Who takes care of you <sup>praise</sup> day & by  
stopmers long <sup>night</sup> and you will  
with the world & <sup>make a fight</sup> cursed tempting

Whose sole employment is to do with  
your dear savior will provide y<sup>e</sup>

with what y<sup>e</sup> will <sup>Arms</sup> defeat his magick  
if you will be y<sup>e</sup> <sup>Charm</sup> saviors Dove

now as y<sup>e</sup> Reynold & y<sup>e</sup> Walter do y<sup>e</sup>  
Love







*The Epistle to the Reader.*

**T**Hou hast here ( courteous  
and friendly Reader ) the  
Pleasant and delightfull Hi-  
story of *Reynard the Fox*,  
which in an humble and low stile ( couch-  
ed to the natures of the Beasts it treateth  
on ) beareth in it much excellent Mora-  
lity and hidden wisdom, worthy both  
thy regard in reading, and thine applica-  
tion in the course and commercement of  
thy life and actions: for the aime at  
which it bendeth, is the overthrow of  
vice, and the advancement of the good  
and vertuous.

Now forasmuch as hitherto it hath  
flowne into the World ( like *Sibilla's*

*The Epistle to the Reader.*

loose papers ) covered with much obscurity and darknesse : I have for thy more ease and contentment, to every severall Chapter annexed the Moralls and Expositions of such darke places, as may hold thy judgement in seeking to winde out a labyrinth so dark and curious ? A labour which I doubt not but will prove both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly guid it will keep thy meditations from wandring astray, and as a pleasant companion hold thee with such delightfull discourse, that thy Journey therein will, neither bee long, nor irkesome: at which end if it arrive with a faire safety as it is faithfully and truly intended, I have the sum of my wishes, and thy self the prosperity, both of this and other mens indeavours.

*Farewell.*

*The*



The Pleasant  
HISTORY  
OF  
Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. I.

How the *Lion* Proclaimed a tolemp Feast at his Court, and how  
*Isegrim* the Wolfe and his Wife, and *Curse* the Hound, made  
their first complaints of *Reynard* the Fox.

**A**ND the Feast of Pentecost (which is  
commonly called Whitsontide) when the  
woods are in their lusty hood and gallantry,  
and every Tree clothed in the green and  
white livery of glorious leaves, and sweet  
smelling blossomes, and the earth covered in  
her fairest mantle of Flowers, which the Birds with much  
entertain with the delight of their harmonious songs.

Even at this time and entrance of the lusty Spring, the  
Lyon the Royall King of beasts, to celebrate this holy Feast-  
time with all triumphant cerimonie, he intended to keep open  
Court at his great Palace of Sanden, and to that end (by solemn  
Proclamation) makes knowne over all his Kingdome, to all  
Beasts whatsoever, that upon paine to be held contemptuous,  
every one should resort to that great celebration: so that with in  
few daies after (at the time prefixed) all Beasts both great and

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small came in infinite multitudes to the Court, only Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himself guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his coming thither must needs have put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found but made their several Complaints against the Fox, but especially Isegrim the Wolfe, who being the first and principallest complaint, came with all his Lineage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner.

My dearest and dearest Sovereign Lord the King, I humbly beseech you, that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pity on so great trespasses, and unsufferable injuries which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife and our whole family: of which to give your highness some taste, first know (if it please your Majesty) that this

Reynard

# of Reynard the Fox.



Reynard came into my house by violence, and against the will of The Morall.  
 my wife, where finding my children laid in their quiet couch, he thrust  
 he put them in so rank a manner, that with the sharp-  
 ness of his urine they fel instantly blind. For this offence a day  
 was set and appointed wherein Reynard should come to excuse  
 himselfe, and to take a solemne oath that he was guiltlesse of  
 that high injury: but as soone as the booke was tendered before  
 him, he that wel knew his own guiltinesse) refused to sweare, from the pre-  
 sence of the Magistrate; yet  
 and by his con-  
 tempt animas  
 his enemies to  
 be more bold  
 in their com-  
 plaints against  
 him, as ap-  
 pears here

For hath this alone bounded his malice, but in many other  
 things he hath trespassed against me, which to relate, neither the  
 time, nor your highnesse patience would give sufferaunce there.  
 unto: suffice it mine injuries are so great that none can exceed  
 them, and the shame and villany he hath done to my wife is  
 such, that I can neither abide nor suffer it any longer, but I  
 must expect from him amends, and from your Majesty mercy.

Whe.



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by the Wolves  
who, although  
worse then the  
Fox, yet doth  
he with his  
abience, & the  
seasonableness  
of the time for  
free liberty of  
speech, take  
oppo-  
tunity to  
say the wo-  
st  
he can aga-  
him, and by his  
example makes  
others of fear  
full nature to  
do the like.  
And therefore  
let no wise man  
shinke from  
his just triall,  
but either de-  
fend his owne  
innocence, or  
else submit to  
mercy for dead  
men and ab-  
sent, and slack  
Advocates.





## of Reynard the Fox.

But the Hound could hardly let these words die from his lips, when with a fiery and angry countenance, in spurring Tibert the Cat amongst them, and falling down before the King, said, My Lord the King, I must confesse the Fox is here grievously complained upon, yet were other beasts also searched, each would have enough to be for his own clearing. Touching the complaint of Curtil the Hound, it was an offence committed many years ago, and though I my self complain of no injury, yet was the Dodding mine, and not his; for I got it by night out of a Mill when the Miller lay asleep, so that if Curtil seek challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these words of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Do you imagine, Tibert, that it were a just or a good course that Reynard should not be complained upon? why the whole world knows he is a murderer, a ravisher, and a thief, and that indeed he loveth not truly any creature, no not his Majesty himselfe, but would suffer his Highnesse to lose both Honour and renowne, so that he might thereby attaine to himself but so much as the legge of a fatte Hen: I shall tell you what I saw him do yesterday to Kyward the Hare, that now standeth in the Kings protection, he promised unto Kyward that he would teach him his Credo, and make him a good Chaplaine, he made him come sit between his legges, and sing and cry aloud Credo, Credo: my way lay thereby, and I heard the song: then coming nearer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left his first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: for he had caught Kyward by the throat, and had I not at that time come, he had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kyward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished, and let him go quit that hath thus broke your peace, and profaned your dignity, and doing no right according to the judgment of your Lawes, your Princely children many years hereafter shall hear the slander of his evil. Certainly Panther (said Megrim) you say true, and it is fit they receive the benefit of Justice, that desire to live in peace.

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## CHAP. 2.

How Grimbard the Brock, spake for Reynard before the King.

**T**hen spake Grimbard the Brock (that was Reynards  
lifers Sonne) being much moved with anger : Isegrius,



## Of Reynard the Fox.

You are malicious, and it is a common Proverb: Malice never spake well? What can you say against my kinsman Reynard? I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most injured one another, might die the death, and be hanged as a felon? I tell you, were he here in the court, and as much in the Kings favour as you are, it would be much too little satisfaction for you to aske mercy: you have many times bitten and tozned my kinsman with your venomous teeth, and oftner much then I can reckon, yet some I will call up to my remembrance.

*The World.*

Vice is never without his advocate, and be a man never so lewde, yet he shall find some one or other to plead for him; especially where there is either greatness or wealth in the offender, or any alliance of blood to those in favour, as

Have you forgot how you cheated him with the Plasse which he threw downe from the Cart, when you followed a lowe for fear: yet you devoured the good Plasse alone, and gave him no more: but the great boane, which you could not eat your self: the like you did with the fat sitch of Bacon, whose taste was so good, that your selfe alone did eat it up, and when my Uncle asked his part, you answered him with scorn, a hire young man thou shalt have thy share: but he got not any thing, albeit he wonne the Bacon with great feare and hazard, for the owner came, and caught my kinsman in a sack, from whence he hardly escaped with life: many of those injuries hath I segim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lordships toudge if they be sufferable: again, he complaineth that my kinsman hath wronged him in his wife: 'tis true, and I confesse Reynard hath lien with her, yet it was seven yeares before I segim did towne her, and if my uncle out of courtisie did her a pleasure, what was that to him? she was soon healed of the soze: nor ought he to complaine of any thing not belonging to him; wisedome would have concealed it, for what credit gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is ungrieved?

any alliance of blood to those in favour, as appears here by the Brock, which pleads for the Fox; first, because he was of his kin, and next he was rich, & able so to please him; lastly, here is to be observed, the insinuation of the Advocate, excusing the Foxes faults with a new forme of

Now comes Kayward the Hare with his complaint, which to me seemed but a trifle, for if he will learn to read, and read not his lesson aright, who will blame the Schoole-master Reynard, if he give him due correction? for if scholars be not beaten and chastised, they will never learn.

penitence, cloaking the ill which is done with zeal and hypocrisy, then the

Lastly complaineth Curtsie, that he with great paine had gotten

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King comes  
brings a good  
man to  
and forgive-  
ness.

gotten a ~~Pyrrhus~~ <sup>Pyrrhus</sup> in the winter, being a season in which vi-  
cissitudes are hard: mis thinks silence would have become  
him better for he had stolen it: and Male quelitti, & male per-  
diditti, 'tis fit it was evil lost, 'twas evil worn, who can blame  
Reynard to take stolen goods from a thief; It is reason that  
he which understands the Law, and can discern right, being  
of great and high birth as my kinsman is, do right unto the  
law. Nay had he hanged up Curteis when he took him with the  
manner, he had offended none but the King, in doing Justice  
without leave; wherefore for respect to his Majestie, he did it  
not, though he reapt little thanks for his labour: alas how  
do those complaints hurt him; mine Uncle is a Gentleman,  
and a true-man, nor can he indure falsehood, he doth nothing  
without the counsell of the Priest: and I affirme, since my  
Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he never thought to hurt  
any man: for he eateth but once a day, he lieth as a Recluse,  
he chastiseth his body, and weareth a shirt of hair cloth: it is  
above a yeare since he eat any flesh (as I have been truly in-  
formed by them which came but yesterday from him) he hath  
forsaken his Castle Malepardur, and abandoned all royaltie,  
a poor hermitage retaines him, hunting he hath forsworne, and  
his wealth he hath scattered, living onely by armes and good  
mens charities; doing infinite penance for his sins, so that he  
is become pale and leane with praying, and fasting, for he  
would faine be with God.

Thus whilst Grimberd his nephew stood preaching, they  
perceived coming downe the hill into them, stout Chante-  
cleere the Cock, who brought upon a Beer a dead Hen, of  
whome Reynard had bitten off the head, and was brought to  
the King to have knowledge thereof.

### CHAP. 3.

How Chanteclere the Cock complained of Reynard the  
Fox.

**C**HANTICLEERE marched for most sorrowfully his  
hands and leathers, whilst on the other side the Hen went  
two

of Reynard the Fox.



two sorrowfull Hens, the one was Tancarr, the other the good  
 Hen Cragant, being two of the fairest Hens between Hol-  
 land & Arden: these Hens bore each of them a straight bright  
 burning Taper, and these Hennes were sisters to Coppell  
 (which lay dead on the Bier) and in the marching they cried  
 piteously, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppell our



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*The Morall.*

When wicked men cannot compass their wickedness by this manner. strong hand, or violence against their enemies; then they study deceit and shifts to entangle them: of all which none is so powerful, as the shew of Religion: for that working upon the easie belief of the simple, makes them many times shippe themselves in to the rough Seas, whence there is no help but shipwrack, as the foolish Cock did to believe the subtle Fox. As in this a man may see, that though an evil man may be now and then excused of some faults, yet still his finnes will so dog him at the heele, that

deare sister. Two young Wens bare the beer, which cackled so heavily, and wopt so loud for the death of Coppell: their mother, that the hills gave an echo to their clamour: thus being come before the King, Chanticleere kneeling down, spake in this manner.

Most mercifull and my great Lord the King, vouchsafe, I beseech you, to heare our complaint, and redresse these injuries whi h Reynard hath unjustly don to me, and my children that here stand weeping; for so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the beginning of Aprill, when the weather was faire, I being then at the height of my pride and glory, because of the great stock and lineage I came of, and also in that I had eight balient sonnes, and seven faire daughters, which my wife had hatched, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a yard well walled and fenced round about, wherein they had in severall sheds for their garde, fire stout Mastiffe Dogges, which ha: tozne the skinnies of many wild Beasts; so that my children feared not any evil which might happen unto them: But Reynard, that false and dissembling traytor, enuying their happy fortune because of their safety, many times assailed the walles, and gave such dangerous assaults, that the Dogges divers times were let forth unto him, and hunted him away; yea once they light upon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price for his theft, and his torn skinnie witnessed, yet nevertheless he escaped, the more was the pittie; yet wee were quiet of his trouble a great while after: at last he came in the likenesse of a Hermit, and brought me a Letter to reade, sealed with your Majesties Seale, in which I found written, that your Highnesse had made peace throughtout all your Realm, and that no manner of Beasts or Fowle should do injurie one to another, affirming unto me that for his own part he was become a Donke, or cloystred R. cluse, to owing to perfoz me a dayly penance for his finnes; shewing unto me his beads, his bowes, and the halre shirt next to his skinnie, saying in humble wise unto me, Sir Chanticleere, never henceforth be affraid of me, for I have bowed never more to eat flesh.

I am



## Of Reynard the Fox,



In the end he  
shall be disco-  
vered, and lie  
to open Law  
and punish-  
ment; as now  
it hapened to  
the Fox, nor  
withstanding  
the Brocks ex-  
cuse and main-  
tenance.

I am now waxed old, and would onely remember my soule;  
therefore I take my leave: for I have yet my noon and my  
even-song to say: whidi spake, he departed, saying his Credo  
as he went, and layed him down under a Hawthorn: at this  
I was exceeding glad, that I toke no heed, but went and  
clocked my children together, and walked without the Wall,  
which

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which I shall euen rue ; for false Reynard lying under a bush came creeping betwixt us and the gate, and suddainly surprised one of my children, which he thrust up in his male and bore away to my great sorrow, for having tasted the sweetness of our flesh, neither hunter, nor hound, can protect or keep him from us : Night and day he waites upon us with that greedynesse, that of fifteen of my children, he hath left me but four unslaughtered, and yesterday Coppel my daughter ( which here lieth dead on the Water ) was ( after her mother ) by a kennel of hounds rescued from him : This is my complaint, and this I leave to your Highness mercy to take pittie of me, and the losse of my faire children,

### CHAP. 4.

The Kings answer to the *Cockes* complaint, and how they sung the *Dirge*.

#### *The Morall.*

Here those that execute bad actions, may see how such offences returne to disgrace, because evil men's vices being disclosed, the excuse are their shames that make them ; as it hapned now to the Brock. Also in the Lyon may be seen the effects of a good disposition, which is exprest in the

**T**hen spake the King, Sir Grimbard, hear you this of your uncle the Recluse ? he hath fasted and prayed well : Well, belbeve it, if I live a year, he shall dearly abide it : as for you Chanticleere, your complaint is heard, and shall be cured : to your daughter that is dead, we will give her the right of burial, and with solemn Dirges bring her to the earth with honour ; which finished, we will consult with our Lords how to do you right and Justice against the murther. Then began the Placido Domine, with all the verses belonging to it, which are too many to recite : and as soon as the Dirge was done, the body was enterea, and upon it a faire Marble Stone laid, being polished as bright as glasse ; in which was engraven in great letters this inscription following, Coppel Chanticleers daughter, whom Reynard the Fox hath slain, lieth here buried ; mourn thou that recellect it, for her death was unjust and lamentable. After this the King sent for his Lords and wisest Counsellors, to consult how this foul murther of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should be sent for, and without all excuse to appear before the King, to answer those trespasses should

## Of Reynard the Fox.



honours and  
rights of Bu-  
rial done to  
the Hens,  
which is a part  
of satisfaction  
for the grief  
her kin endur-  
ed; In the  
Bears willing-  
ness to fetch  
the Fox, is ex-  
press how apt  
a malicious  
nature is to  
be imploy'd in  
any thing that  
may offend his  
adversary, and  
how common-  
ly such im-  
ployments mis-  
carry.

should be objected against him, and that this message should be  
delivered by Bruin the Bear: to all this the King gave con-  
sent, & taking him before him said, sir Bruin, it is our pleasure  
that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have  
great regard to your self, for Reynard is full of policy, and  
knoweth how to dissimble, flatter, and betray; he hath a world  
of snares to intangle you withall, and without great exercise  
of judgment, will make a scorn and mock of the best wisdom

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breathing. My Lord (answered Sir Bruine) let me alone with Reynard, I am not such a truant in distraction, to become a mock to his knavery: and thus full of solittle the Bear departed: if his return be as jovial, there is no fear in his well-spending.

### CHAP. 5.

How Bruine the Bear sped with Reynard the Fox.



## of Reynard the Fox.

**T**He next morning away went Bruine the Bear in quest of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever, and as he came through a dark Forrest, in which Reynard had a by-path, which he used when he was hunted, he saw a high mountain, over which he must passe to go to Malepardus: for though Reynard had many houses, yet Malepardus is his chiefeest and most antient Castle, and in it he lay both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruine was come to Malepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which after he had knocked ( sitting on his tail ) he called aloud, *Sir Reynard, are you at home? I am Bruine your kinsman, whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to answer many foul accusations exhibited against you, and hath taken a great vow, that if you fail to appear to this summon, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your goods and honours shall lie confiscate at his Highness mercie: Therefore Sir kinsman, be advised by your friends, and go with me to the Court to shun the danger that else will fall upon you.* Reynard lying close by the gate ( as his custome was for the warme Sunne sake ) hearing those words, departed into one of his holes, for Malepardus is full of many intricate and curious Rooms, ( which labyrinth-wise hee could passe thorow, when either his danger, or the benefit of any prey required the same ) where meditating a while with himself how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to disgrace ( whom he knew loved him not ), and himself to honour, at last he came forth, and said, *Dear Uncle Bruine, you are exceeding welcome, pardon my slownesse in coming; for at your first speech I was saying my Even-song: and devotion must not be neglected: believe me he hath done you no good service, nor do I think him which hath sent you this weary and long journey, in which your much sweat and toil, far exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you not come, I had to morrow been at the Court of mine own accord, yet at this time my sorrow is much lessened, in as much as your counsel at this present may return mee double benefit: Alas Cousin, could his Majestie finde no meaner a*

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messenger then your noble self to employ in these trivial affairs? truly it appears strange to me: especially since next his royal self, you are of greatest renowne both in Blood and Riches: for my part I would we were both at Court, for I fear our journey will be exceeding troublesome: for to speak troth, since I made my abstinence from Flesh, I have eaten such strange new meats, that my bodie is very much distempered, and swelleth as if it would break. Alas dear Cousin (said the Bear) what meat is that which maketh you so ill? Uncle (answered he) what will it profit you to know? the meat was simple and mean; we poor men are no Lords you know, but eat that for necessity, which others eat for wantonnesse: yet not to delay you; that which I eat was honey-combs, great, full, and most pleasant which compelled by hunger, I eat too unmeasurably, and am thereby infinitely distempered. Ha (quoth Bruine) honey-combs? do you make such light respect of them. Nephew? why it is meat for the greatest Emperour in the world: Fair Nephew,

### *The Morall.*

In this encounter between the Fox and the Bear, is exprest the dissimulation of two wicked persons, each plotting to do the other



## Of Reynard the Fox.

phew; help me but to some of that honey, and command me whilst I live; for one little part thereof, I will be your servant everlastingly. Sure said the Fox (Uncle) you but jest with me; but jest with you (replied Bruine) bestrew my heart then: for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick thereof you shall make me the faithful'st of all your kindred. Nay (said the Fox) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to devour it at a meal, onely for your love sake, which above all things I desire. Uncle. Not ten of us (said the Bear) it is impossible: for had I all the honey betwixt Hibia and Portugal, yet I could in a short space eat it all my self. Then know Uncle (quoth the Fox) that near at hand here dwelleth a Husbandman named Lanfert, who is master of so much honey, that you cannot consume in seven years, which for your love and friendship sake I will put into your safe possession. Bruine made upon the honey, swore, that to have but one good meal thereof, he would not onely be his faithful friend, but also stop the mouths of all his adversaries. Reynard smiling at his easie beliefs, said, If you will have seven tun, Uncle, you shall have it. These words pleased the Bear so well, and made him so pleasant, that he could not stear for laughing.

Waked thought the Fox, this is good fortune; sure I will lead him where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said, Uncle, we must delay no time, and I will spare no pain for your sake, which for none of my kin I would perform. The Bear gave him many thanks, and so away they went, the Fox promising him as much honey as he could bear, but meant as many strokes as he could undergo: in the end they came to Lanfers house, the sight wherof made the Bear rejoice. This Lanfert was a stout and lustie Carpenter, who the other day had brought into his yard a great Oak, which (as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had struck into it two wedges: in such wise, that the clest stood a great way open: at which the Fox rejoiced much, for it was answerable to his wish, so that with a laughing countenance he said to the Bear, Behold now dear Uncle, and be careful of your

mischief: wherein though she wisest commonly get the victory at first, yet the just cause in the end prevailleth. In the Bears greedie to eat honey, is expressed, the lascivious in concarnacie of a loose and unrestrained nature, that for a minutes enjoying of their own delight, quite forget the basiness and cares they have in hand. In the Fox is exprest the cunning of wisdom, which ever cast out (to loose natures) those baits of delight, which being swallowed with greedinesse, do ever choak the swallower, as appeareth by the Bear, who is not.

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only wounded, and in danger of his life, but also made a mocke and scorne to his enemies. Also by the crueltie used on the Beare by the common people, is shewed, how when an ill man is once snared in his vices, how every one of what degree soever from the highest to the lowest, are ready to prosecute and revenge themselves for the ill they have received.



Self, for within this tree is so much honey, that it is unmeasurable, trie if you can get into it, yet good Uncle eat moderately: for albeit the combs are sweet and good, yet a surfeit is dangerous, and may be troublesom to your bodie, which I would not for a world, since no harme can come to you, but must be my dishonour. So; or is not for me, Pephew Reynard  
(said)

## of Reynard the Fox.

said the Bear) nor thinke my such a fool, that I cannot temper mine appetite. It is true my best Uncle, I was too bold, I pray you enter in at the end, and you shall find me your desire. The Bear with all haste entered the tree, with his two feet forward, and thrust his head into the cleft, quite over the ears: which when the Fox perceived; hee instantly ran and pulled the wedges out of the tree, so that he locked the Bear fast therein, and then neither flattery nor anger availed the Bear, for the Pephew had by his deceit brought the Uncle into so false a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himself of the same. Alas, what profiteth now his great strength and valour? why they were both causes of more vexation: and finding himself destitute of all relief, he began to howl and bray, and with scratching and tumbling to make such a noise, that Lanfert amazed, came hastily out of his house, having in his hand a sharp hook, whilst the Bear lay wallowing and roaring within the tree, which the Fox a far off seeing, hee said to the Bear in scorn, As the honey good (Uncle) lodgeth



## The Pleasant History

you eat? how do you: eat not too much I beseech you: pleasant things are apt to surfeit, and you may hinder your journey to the Court: when Lanfert cometh (if your bellie be full) he will geve you drinke to digest it, and wash it down your throat: and having thus said, he went towards his Castle. But by this time, Lanfert finding the Bear fast taken in the tree: he ran to his neighbours, and desired them to come into his yard, for there is a Bear fast taken there. Which being noised thorow all the Town, there was neither man, nor woman, nor childe, but ran thither, some with one weapon, and some with another: as Swords, Rakes, Broom-staves, or what they could gather up: the Priest had the handle of the Crosse; the Clerk the holy-water sprinkler, and the Priest's wife Dame Jullock with her distaffe, for she was then spinning: nay, the old Bloames came, that haue re a tooth in their heads. This commo put Bruine into a great fear, being none but himself to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noise which came thundering upon him, he was affled and pulled so extremely, that he got out his head, but left behinde him all the skin, and his ears also: insomuch that never creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast; for the blood covering all his face, & his hands leauing the claws and skin behinde them, nothing remained but ugliness: 'twas an ill market the Bear came to, for he lost both motion and sight, feet and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert the Priest, and the whole Parish came upon him, and so be-cudgell'd him about his bodie-part, that it might well be a warning to all his miserie, to know that ever the weakest shall still go most to the walls: This the Bear found by experience, for every one exercised the height of their sinies upon him; even Houghlin with the crooked legg, and Ludolf with the long broad nose, the one with a leaden Ball, and the other with an iron whip, all to be-lashed poor sir Bruine, not so much but sir Bertolf with the long fingers, Lanfert and Ortram did him more annoyance then all the rest, the one having a sharp Welsh-hook; the other a crooked staffe well leaded at the end, which he used to play at stab-ball with.

## of Reynard the Fox.

all, there was Birkin, and Armes-Ablequack, Bane the Priest with his staffe, and dame Jullocke his wife, all these so belaboured the Bear, that his life was in great danger: the poore Bear in this Passacre late and sighed extremly, groaning under the burthen of their stroaks, of which Lanferts were the greatest, and thundered most dreadfully, for Dame Podge of Casport was his Mother, & his Father was Marob the Steeple-maker: a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruine received of him many showers of stones, till Lanferts Brother rushing before the rest with a staffe, struck the Bear in the head such a blow, that he could neither hear nor see, so that awaking from the astonishment, the Bear leapt into the River adjoyning, through a cluster of wives there standing together, of which he threw divers into the water, which was large and deep, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one, which the Parson seeing how she floated like a Sea-mew, he left striking the Bear, and cried to the rest of the company, help, oh help? Dame Jullocke is in the water, help both men and women, for whosoever saves her, I give free pardon of all their sinnes and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoever: this heard, every one left the Bear to help Dame Jullocke, which as soon as the Bear saw, he cut the stream and storm away as fast as he could, but the Priest with a great noise pursued him, crying in his rage, Turn villain, that I may be revenged of thee, but the Bear swam in the strength of the stream, and suspected not his calling, for he was proud that he was so escaped from them: onely he bitterly curst the Honeytree, and the Fox, which had not onely betrayed him, but had made him lose his hood from his face, and his gloves from his fingers: in this sort he swam some three miles down the water, in which time he grew so weary, that he went on the land to get ease, where blood trickled down his face, he groaned, sighed, and drew his breath so short, as if his last houre had been expiring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Fox in his way home stole a fat Hen, and threw her into his male, and running thorow a by path that no man might perceive him, he came towards the River with infinite joy: for he suspected



## The Pleasant History

that the Bear was certainly slain; therefore said to himselfe; My fortune is as I wisht it, for the greatest enemy I had in the Court is now dead, nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof; but as he spake these words, looking towards the River, he espied where Bruine the Bear lay resting, which struck his heart with grief, and he railed against Lanfert the Carpenter, saying, Silly fool that thou art, what mad man would have lost such good venison, especially being so fat and whole-some, and for which he took no pains, for he was taken to his hand; any man would have been proud of the fortune which thou neglectest. Thus fretting and chiding, he came to the River, where he found the Bear all wounded and bloody, of which Reynard was onely guilty. yet in scorn he said to the Bear, Mon Sire, Dieu vous garde. O thou foul red villain, said the Bear to himselfe, what impudence is like this? But the Fox went on with his speech, and said, What Uncle? have you forgot any thing at Lanfert, or have you payed him for the honey-combes you stole? if you have not, it will redound much to your disgrace, which before you shall undergo, I will pay him for them my selfe: sure the honey was excellent good, and I know much more of the same price; Good Uncle, tell me before I go, into what order do you mean to enter, that you wear this new fashioned Hood? will you be a Monk, an Abbot, or a Friar? surely he that shaven your crown, hath cropt your eare, also your fore-top is lost, and your gloves are gone; hee sloven, go not bare-handed, they say you can sing *Peccavi* rarely. These taunts made Bruine mad with rage; but because he could not take revenge, he was content to let him talk his pleasure; then after a small rest, he plunged again into the River, and swam down the streame; and landed on the other side, where he began with much grief to meditate how he might get to the Court; for he had lost his eares, his talons, and all the skin off his feet, so that he had a thousand deathes followed him; he could not go, and yet of necessity he must move, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his buttocks on the ground, and tumbled his body over and over; so by degrees tumbling now half a mile, and then half a mile, in the



## Of Reynard the Fox.

the end he tumbled to the Court; where others beholding his strange manner of approach, they thought some prodigie had come towards them, but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying, It is Sir Bruine my servant, what villaines have wounded him thus, or where hath he been that he brings his death thus along with him? O my dread Sovereigne Lord the King, (cryed out the Bear) I complain mee grievously unto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you revenge on that fall Reynard, who for doing your royall pleasure, hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. When said the King, How durst he do this? now by my crowne I swear I will take revenge, which shall make the traytors tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Counsell, and consulted, how, and in what sort to prosecute against the Fox; where it was generally conceived, that he should be again summoned to appear and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tibert the Cat, as well for his gravity as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

### CHAP. 5.

How the King sent Tibert the Cat for Reynard the Fox.

Then the King called for Sir Tybert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tybert, you shall go to Reynard, and say to him the second time, and command him to appear, and answer his offences; for though he be cruel to other beasts, yet to you he is courteous; assure him if he fail at your first summons, that I will take so severe a course against him and his posterity, that his example shall terrifie all offenders. When said Tibert the Cat, My dread Lord, they were my foes which thus abused you, for there is nothing in me that can force him either to come, or tarry: I beseech your Majesty send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruine, that is so strong & mighty, could not enforce him, what will my weaknes be avail? The King replied, It is your will.

## The pleasant Historie

*The Morall*

By the sending of the Cat to fetch the Fox, is exprest the care of Governours, that when they have been deceived by the pride & ostentation of such as they did employ, and thought discreet; that when they seek out those that are known wise, and employ them; because wisdom is even circumvented by a greater wisdom, in the Cats much softness & goodness is exprest, the unwillingness a wise man hath to meddle in dangerous matters, especially when they hold the party with whom they have to do, of a reach far beyond them; yet when authority commands, they

some, Sir Tibert, I employ, and not your strength, and many prevail with Art, when violence returnes with lost labour. Well, said the Cat, since it is your pleasure, it must be accomplished, heaven make my fortune better then my heart presageth. This Tibert made things in readinesse, and went towards Mallepardus, and in his journey, he saw come flying towards him one of Saint Martins Birds, to whom the Cat, cried aloud, Hail gentle bird, I beseech thee turn thy wings and sit on my right hand: but the bird turned the contrary way, and flew on his left side; then grew the Cat very heavey, for he was wise and skillfull in Augurisme, and knew the signe to be ominous, nevertheless (as many do) he armed himselfe with better hope: and went to Mallepardus, where he found the Fox standing before the Castle gates, to whom Tibert said, Health to my fair Cousin Reynard: so it is that the King by me summons you to the Court: in which if you fail or deferre time, there is nothing more assured unto you, then a cruel and a suddain death. The Fox answered, Welcome dear cousin Tibert, I obey your command, & wish my Lord the King infinite days of happinesse, onely let me intreat you to rest with me to night, and take such cheer as my simple house affoordeth, and to morrow as early as you will, we will go towards the Court, for I have no kinsman I trust so dearely as your self. Here was with me the other day the trecherous knight Sir Bruise the Bear, who look'd upon me with that tyrannous cruelty, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire hazard my person with him, but my dear cousin, with you I will go, were a thousand sicknesses upon me. Tibert replied, You speak like a noble Gentleman, and me thinks it is best now to go forward, for the Moon shines as bright as day. Say dear Cousin (said the Fox) let us take day before us, so may we encounter with our friends the night is full of danger, and suspitions. Well, said the Cat, if it be your pleasure I am content, what shall we eat? Reynard said, truly my store is small, the best I have is a honey-comb so pleasant and sweet, what think you of it? Tibert replieth, it is meat I little respect, and seldom eat: I had rather have one Pouse, then all the honey

## of Reynard the Fox.

in Europe. A mouse said Reynard) why my deare cousin here dwelleth a Priest here by, who hath a Barne by his house so full of mice, that I think half the Mains in the Parish are not able to beare them. O dear Reynard (quoth the Cat) do but lead me thither, and make me your servant for ever: why (said the Fox) but love you mice so exceedingly? Beyond expression (quoth the Cat) why a mouse is beyond Reason, or the delicatest eates on Princes Tables: therefore conduct me thither, and command my friendship in any matter: had you slain my father, my mother, and all my kin, I would clearly forgive you.

must . bey,  
though never  
so many dan-  
gers attend.

### CHAP. 7.

How Tibert the Cat was deceived by Reynard the Fox.

THE Fox said Reynard, Sure you do you but jest. So by my life, said the Cat. Well then (quoth the Fox) if you be in earnest, I will so work that this night I will fill your belly: 'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow me said the Fox: for I will bring you to the place presently: thus away they went with all speed to the Priests Barne, which was well walled about with a mure-wall, where but the night before the Fox had broken in, and stole from the Priest an exceeding fat Hen; at which the Priest was so angry, that he had set a grin or snare before the hole, to catch him at his next coming, which the saile Fox knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sic Tibert, creep in at this hole, and be leue it you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall have more mice then you are able to devour: hark, you may hear how they peepe: when your belly is full, come again, and I will stay and wait for you here at this hole, that to morrow we may go together to the Court: but good Cousin stay not too long, for I know, my wife will hourly expect us. When (said the Cat) think you I may safely enter in at this hole? these Priests are wise, and subtil, and couch

## The Pleasant History



their danger oft close, that rashness is soon overtaken. Why  
cousin Tibert (said the Fox) I never saw you turn coward  
before: what man, fear you a shadow? The Cat ashamed  
at his fear, sprang quickly in at the hole, but was presently  
caught fast by the neck in the Gin, which as soon as the  
Cat felt and perceived, he quickly leapt back againe: so that  
the

## Of Reynard the Fox.

the snare running close together, he was half strangled, so that he began to struggle, and cry out, and exclaim most piteously: Reynard stood before the hole and heard all, at which he infinitely rejoiceth, and in great scorn said, Cousin Tibert, love you Pice? I hope they be well fed for your sake; knew the Priest or Martinet of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition, they would bring you sauce quickly; methinks you sing at your meat, is that the Court fashion; if it be, I would I & my the Wolf were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together: but all this while the poor Cat was fast, and mewed so piteously, that Martinet leapt out of his bed, and cryed to his people? Arise, for the thief is taken that had stolne our Hens: With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up and awaked all in his house, crying, the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken: and arising stark naked, he gave to Jullock his wife an offering candle to light, and then came first to Tibert, he smote him with a great staffe, and after him many other: so that the Cat received many deadly blowes, and the anger of Martinet was so great, that he struck out one of the Cat's eyes, which he did, to second the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to bath out the Cat's brains: but the Cat perceiving his death so near him, in a desperate mood he leapt between the Priest's legges, and with his claws and teeth so fast'ned on his genitoire, that in all the great Turke's Seraglio, there was not a clearer Eunuch: which when Dame Jullock his wife saw, she cried out and swoze, she had rather have lost the whole Offering of seven years, then that one poor little more: and with all curse that ever the Gun was invented, and calling Martinet, See, my Son, this thy Father's delight, and my Jewel, but it is now spoiled, to his shame, and my utter losse for ever: for howsoever he be cured, yet to me he can never more be comfortable. All this while Reynard stood before the hole, and saw what passed, and laughed so extremly, that his bodie was ready to break, saying to Dame Jullock, Fie woman, do not torment your selfe so, the Priest hath lost but one stone, you may yet receive due bene-  
volence:

*The Moral,*

By the Fox insinuating of the Cat is exprest, how when wise men will not their enemies, or give credit to received Fables, they evermore miscarry in their designs; and therefore every wife man should to temper his affections, that he grow not so fond of any thing in his enemies power; how agreeable soever it be either with his nature, or his power. For the baits of an enemy are onely gilded pills, which are fair to look on, but most bitter to taste. By the mischief which the Priest received, is shewed, that they which harm watch, harm catch, and that



## The pleasant Historie

the trap which  
men now and  
then set for o-  
thers, brings  
harm to them-  
selves,



violence: there is many a Chappell in which but one Bell  
rings. Now whil'st the For thus scoffed the Priest's wife,  
the poore Priest fell down in a swoone: so that every man  
left the Cat, to redre the Priest & which whil'st they were  
doing, the For returned home to Malepardus, for he imagi-  
ned the Cat was past all hope to escape: but the poore Cat  
seeing

## Of Reynard the Fox.

seeing all her foes lull'd about the fire, he presently began to gnaw and bite the cord, till he had breared it quite asunder in the middle: which done, he leapt out of the hole, and went roaring & tumbling (like the Bear) to the Kings Court. But before he got thither, it was fair day, and the Sunne being risen, he entered the Court, like the pittifullest beast that ever was beheld, for by the Foxes craft his body was beaten and bruised, his bones shivered and broken; one of his eyes lost, and his skin rent and mangled. This when the King beheld, and saw him so pittifully mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and took counsel once more, how to revenge the injuries upon the Fox. After some consultation, Grimbard the Brock, Reynards Sisters son, said to the rest of the Kings counsel, My good Lords, though my Uncle were twice so evil as these complaints make him, yet there is remedy enough against his mischiefs: therefore it is fit you do him Justice as to a man of his rank, which is, he must be the third time summoned, and then if he appear not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. When the King demanded of the Brock, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who would be so desperate to hazard his hands, his cares, nay his life with one so tyrannous and irreverent? Truly (answered the Brock) if it please your Majesty, I am that desperate person, who dare adventure to carry the message to my most subtil Rinsman, if your highness but command me.

### CHAP. 8.

How Grimbard the Brock was sent to bid the Fox to the Court.

**T**hen said the King, Go Grimbard, for I command you; yet take heed of Reynard, for he is subtil and malicious. The Brock thanked his Majesty, and so taking humble leave, went to Mallepardon, where he found Reynard & Ismelin his wife, sporting with their young whelps; then having saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said: Take heed fair Uncle, that your

## The Pleasant History

### *The Moral.*

In the sending of the Brock to fetch the Fox, is shew-  
ed, that when the vicious can-  
not be over-  
taken and  
brought to an-  
swer, then it  
is meet to use  
their own  
weapons a-  
gainst them,  
and with poli-  
cy, which can  
no way be bet-  
ter done then  
by imploying  
their kindred,  
and such as  
they most  
dearly affect  
to perswade  
them, because  
Affection is e-  
ver a prevail-  
ing Orator.

your absence from the Court, and not more mischief to your  
cause, then the offence doth deserve: believe it, it is high time  
you appear to the Court, since your delay doth beget but more  
danger and punishment: the complaints against you are infi-  
nite, and this is your third time of Summons; Therefore your  
wisdom may tell you, that if you delay but one day farther,



## o f Reynard the Fox.

there is not left to you or yours any hope of merite, for within  
thre daies your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made  
slaves, and your self exempted for a publick example. Where-  
fore my best Uncle, I beseech you recollect your wisdom, and  
go with me presently to the Court. I doubt not but your off-  
cretion shall excuse you; for you have past thoro' many as  
eminent perills, and made your foes ashamed, whilst the Inno-  
cence of your cause hath boyn you spotlesse from the Tribu-  
nal. Reynard answered; Nephew, you say true, and I will be  
advised and go with you, not to answer offences, but in that  
I know the Court stands in need of my counsel; the Kings  
mercie I doubt not, if I may come to speak with his Majesty,  
though mine offences were ten times doubled, for I know  
the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his highness  
understand truly; though I know I have many enemies, yet  
it troubles me not, for mine innocence shall awaken their in-  
juries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and  
politicke, Reynard cannot be missing: they may well harp up-  
on things, but the pith and ground must come from my relati-  
on: it is the envie of others hath made me leave the Court, for  
though I know their shallowness cannot disgrace me, yet may  
their multitudes oppress me: nevertheless (Nephew) I will  
go with you to the Court, and answer for my self, and not  
hazard the welfare of my Wife and Childzen, the King is too  
mightie; and though he do me injurie, yet will I bear it with  
patience. This spoke, he turn'd to his wife and said. Dame Er-  
melin have care of my childzen, specially Reynikin my young-  
est son, for he had much of my love, and I hope will follow my  
steps; also Rossell is passing hopeful, and I love them intirely;  
therefore regard them, and if I escape, doubt not but my love  
shall requite you. At this leave taking Ermelin wept, and her  
childzen howled, for their Lord and victualler was gone, and  
Malgarius left unprovided.

# The Pleasant History

## CHAP. 9.

How Reynard Brove him to Grimbard the Brock.

### The Morall

The Shift of  
the Fox shew  
eth, that when  
evill men are  
in danger, then  
they ever find  
most religion,  
and by a shew  
of a penitence,  
win pity from  
those that dive  
not into the  
depth of their  
deceit & kna-  
very, where by  
though they  
be never so  
evill, yet they  
get a good  
name, & steale  
opinion of the  
multitude. By  
the abjection  
which the  
Brock gave  
the Fox, is  
shewed, how  
easily an ho-  
nest simple  
man may be  
be caught to  
believe a  
knaves pes-  
onage, & how

W HEN Reynard and Grimbard had gone a good way  
on their journey, Reynard stayed, and said, Dear Bre-  
phew, blame me not if my heart be full of care, for my life is in  
great hazard, yet to blot out my sins with repentance, and to  
cast off the burthen, give me leave to shew my self unto you ;  
I know you are holy, and having received penance for my sin,  
my soul will be quiet. Grimbard had him proceed. Then  
said the Fox, Confitebor tibi pater. Nay said the Brock, if you  
will shew to me, do it in English, that I may understand  
you ; Then said Reynard, I have grievously offended against  
all the Beasts that live, and especially mine Uncle Bruine the  
Bear, whom I lately massacred; and Tybert the Cat whom I  
slandered in a grin: I have trespassed against Chanteclere and  
his Children, and have devoured many of them ; may the King  
hath not been quit of my malice, for I have slandered him and  
his Queen, I have betrayed Segrim the Wolf, and called him  
Uncle, though no part of his blood ran in my veins, I made him  
a Monk of Elmane, where I became also one of the order, only  
to do him open mischief. I made him bind his tail to the bell  
rope to teach him ring, but he paid had like to have cost him  
his life, the men of the parish beat and wounded him so sore :  
after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten  
therefore, and feeleth the stripes at this instant. I led him to  
Kral Baron at a rich Priest's house, where he fed so extrem-  
ly: that not being able to get out, where he got in, I raised all  
the Toton upon him : and then went where the Priest was  
set at meat with a fat Hen before him : which Hen I snatcht  
away, so that the Priest cried out, Kill the Fox, for never man  
saw thing so strange, that the Fox should come into my house,  
and take my meat from before me.

This is a boldness beyond knowledge: and with these words  
he threw his knife at me, but he mist me, and I ran away  
till I



## Of Reynard the Fox.



apt they are to  
forgive tref-  
passation  
fained sorrow,  
which indeed  
should not be  
done without  
a more strict  
& severe exa-  
mination: The  
Foxes leading  
the Brock by  
the Monastery  
and taking the  
Capon, shew-  
eth what where  
wickedness is  
rooted and  
made as it were  
a habit, that  
these notwith-  
standing all  
hypocrisy, I  
will still flash  
out, and a  
knave will be  
a knave in de-  
spite of all  
persuasions  
and good  
counsel.

Whil' he pursued me crying, Kill the Fox, Kill the Fox, and  
after him a world of people, whom I led to the place where  
Hegrim was, and there I let my Hen fall, for it was too  
heavie for me (yet much against my will) and then springing  
through a hole I got into safety. Now as the Priest took  
up the Hens, he espied Hegrim, and then cried out, Strike

## The pleasant History



friends, strike, here is the Wolf, by no means let him escape us: When the people came all together, with clubs, and staves, and with a dreadful noise, giving the poor Wolf many a deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such mortal blows on the body, that the Wolf fell down as if he had bin dead, which perceived, they took him and drag'd him by the

## of Reynard the Fox.

the heels over stocks and stones, and in the end threw him into a ditch without the Village, and there he lay all night, but how he got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place, where I told him were seven Hens and a Cock, set on a perch, all lustie and fat, and hard by the place stood a false dooz, on which I climbed: then I told him if he would creep in at the dooz, he should finde the Hens. When Ilegrim with much, say went laughing to the dooz, and entring in a little, and groping about, he said, Reynard, you abuse me; for here is nothing: then replied I, Uncle, they are further; and if you will have them, you must adventure for them: those which used to sit there, I my self had long since; at this the Wolf going a little further, I gave him a push forward, so that he fell down into the house, and his fall was so great, and made such a noise, that they which were asleep in the house, awaked, and cried, that something was fallen down at the trap-dooz; whereupon they arose, and lighted a canole, espying him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolf to a y hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or reckon, which as they come to my minde, I will relate to you hereafter. I have also grievously offended against Dame Asewinde his Wife, of which I must repent me for it was highly to her dishonour. Uncle, said Grimbart, I understand you not, you make your story imperfect; for you say you have offended, but declare not in what. Pardon me, Sephew, I know you hate to hear dishonour of Woman: the truth is, I have laien with her: Thus have I told you my wickednesse now order my penance as shal seem fit in your discretion. Grimbart was both learned and wise, and therefore brake a rod from a tree, and said, Sephew, You shall three times strike your bodie with this rod, and then lay it down upon the ground, and spring three times over it without bowing of your legs, or tumbling: then shall you take it up, and kisse it gently, in sign of meekness and obedience to your penance: which done, you are absolved of your sins committed to this day, for I pronounce unto you cleare remission. At this the Fox was exceeding glad, and then Grimbart said unto him; See that hence-  
so, th

## The Pleasant History

forth Uncle you do good works, read your Psalter, go to Church, fast vigils, keep holy days, give almes, and leave your sinfull and evill life, your theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall attain mercy. The Fox promised to performe all this, and so they went together towardes the Court, but a little besides the way as they went, stood a religious house of Nunnes, where many Geese, Penns, and Capons went without the wall: and as they went talking the Fox led Grimbert out of his right way to that place, and finding the Pullard walking without the Barn, amongst which was a fat young Capon, which strayed a little from his fellows: at which he suddainly leapt and caught him by the feathers, which flew about his ears: but the Capon escaped: which Grimbert seeing, said, Accursed man, what wilt thou do, wilt thou for a silly Pullet fall again into all your sinns? mischance it self would not do it: to which Reynard answered Barton me dear Stephen, I had forgotten my self, but I will ask forgiveness, and mine eye shall no more wander: and then they turned over



a little

## of Reynard the Fox.

a little Bridge: but the Fox still glanced his eie towards the Pullen, and could by no means refrain it; for the ill that was bred in his bones, still stuck to his flesh, and his minde carried his eies that way as long as he could see them: which the Brock noting, said, Hee, dissembling Cousin, why wander your eyes so after the Pullen? The Fox replied, Nephew, you do me injury so to mistake me, for mine eies wandered not, but I was saying a Pater Nutter for the souls of all the Pullen and Geese which I have slain and betrayed, in which devotion you hindered me. Well, said Grimbart, it may be so, but your glances are suspicious. Now by this time they were come into the way again, and made haste towards the Court, which as soon as the Fox saw, his heart quaked for fear: for he knew well the crimes he was to answer, for they were infinite and hainous.

### CHAP. 10.

How the Fox came to the Court, and how hee excused himself.

As soon as it was bruited in the Court, that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbart his kinsman were arrived there, every one from the highest to the lowest, prepared himself to complain of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the old garb, and he went as proudly as ever he was wont with his Nephew through the stræt, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had been the Kings son, and as clear from trespasse, as the most innocent whatsoever: and when he came before the chair of State in which the King sat, he said. Heaven give your majestie glorie and renown above all the Princes of the earth: I assure your Highness there was never King had a truer servant then my self have been to you, and yet am, and so will die: Nevertheless (my dread Lord) I know there be many in this Court that seek my confusion, if they could win belief in your Majestie; but you soon the standers of malice, and although in these



## The Pleasant History



### The Moral,

In the Foxes  
appearing as  
the Court is  
shewed, that  
when a male-  
factor is  
brought before  
the Justice,  
that then is the  
fit time for all  
men that have  
bin injured, to  
utter their  
complaints,

dapes flatterers have the most rooms in Princes Courts, yet  
with you it is not so, nor shall they reap any thing but shame  
for their labour. But the King cut him short at these words,  
and said, Peace traitterous Reynard, I know your dissimula-  
tion, and can expound your flatterie, but both shall now sail  
you: think you I can be caught with the musick of your  
words:

## Of Reynard the Fox.

words; no, it hath too often deceiv'd me: the Peace which I com-  
manded and swore unto, that have you broken. And as hee  
would have gone forward, Chaunticleere crying out, *How*  
have I lost this noble Peace? Be still Chaunticleere (said the  
King) and then he proceeded. Thou Devil among good ones,  
with what face canst thou say thou lovest me, and seest all those  
wretched creatures ready to disprove thee, whose very wounds  
yet spit bloodie defiance upon thee: and for which belittle thy  
dearest life shall answer. In nomine Patris, &c. said the Fox,  
My dear Lord, if Bruins crowne be bloodie, what is that to me?  
If your Majestie implored him in a message, and he would  
neglect it to steal Honie at the Carpenters house, where he re-  
ceived his wound, how shall I amend it? If revenge he sought,  
why did he not take it himself? he is strong and puissant, it  
was not for to be lookt for at my wickedness. As for Tibert the  
Cat (whom I received with all friendship, if he against my will  
or advice, will steal into the Wyckes Barn to catch Mice, and  
there lose his eyes, nay his life, wherein is mine offence? or how  
become I their guardian? My dear Lord, you may doe  
your royall pleasure, and how ever mine innocence plead, yet  
your will may adjudge me to what death contents you: I am  
your vassaille, and have no support but your mercy: I know  
your strength and mine owne weaknesse, and that my death  
can peeld you but small satisfaction, yet whatsoever your will  
is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as he thus spake,  
Bellin the Ram strept forth, and his Cow-Jane Oieway and he  
sought the King to heare their complaint, with them Bruine  
the Bear, and all his mighty linage: And Tibert the Cat, lie-  
grim the Wolfe, Kyward the Hare, and Panther the Boze, the  
Cammel and Buel the Goose, the Kid and the Colt, Bauld-  
win the Ass, Borrel the Bul, and Hamell the Dr, the Wiccel,  
Chanteree the Cock, and Patter with all her children. All  
these with one entire noyse cried out against the Fox, and so  
moted the King with their complaints, that the Fox was ta-  
ken and arrested.

because then  
only redresse  
is to be had.  
In the Lion is  
expressed the  
lawfulnessse of  
Justice, and  
how terrible it  
is to every of-  
fender, especi-  
ally such as  
have the guilt  
of Conscience  
within them.  
The Foxes  
bold behavi-  
our shews,  
that impudent  
male factors,  
when they are  
called in ques-  
tion, make  
audacity their  
chief guard,  
and by railing  
against their  
adversaries, do  
seek to exte-  
nuate the loof-  
ness of their  
offences, but  
truth and Ju-  
stice will not  
bee hood-  
winked.

## The Pleasant History

### C H A P. II.

How the Fox was Arrested and judged to death

**U**PON this Arrest a Parliament was called, and every voice went that Reynard should be executed: notwithstanding he answered every objection severally, though great Art was used both in one and the other; to the wonderfull admiration of all that heard him. But witnesses examined, and every proove made pregnant, the Fox was condemned & judgement was given, that he should be hanged till his bodie were dead. At which sentence the Fox cast down his head, for all his Jollity was lost, and no flattery nor no words now prevailed. This done, Grimbari his Nephew, and others others near him in blood, (which could not indure to see him die) took their leave of the King & departed from the Court. When the King roted what gallant young Gentlemen departed thence, all sad and weeping, being near of the Foxes blood and alliance, he said to himselfe, It behoveth us to take good and mature counsel; though Reynard have some faults, yet he hath many friends, and more vertues. As the King was thus thinking, the Cat said to the Beare: Sir Bruine, and you Sir Ilegrim, Why are you slow in this Execution? the Even is almost come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and quit himselfe of this danger, his subtiltie is so great, that not all the Art in the World shal ever again intangle him: If you mean to execute him, then proceed, for before the Gallowes can be made, it will be darke night. At these words Ilegrim remembryng himselfe, said, There is a paire of Gallowes neere at hand (and with that fetch'd a deep sigh) which the Cat noting, said: Are you afraid Sir Ilegrim, or is this execution against your mind? you may remember it was onely his worke, that both your brethren were hanged: and sure had you Judgment, you would thanke him for the same, and not thus stand trising time. But Ilegrim, half angrie answered, Your anger puts out the eye of your reason, yet had we a halter that would fit his neck,

## of Reynard the Fox.

neck, we would soon dispatch him. Reynard that had been silent a great while, said, I beseech you shorten my pain; Sir



Tibert hath a Cord strong enough, in which himself was hang'd at the Priests house, when he bit off the Priests gentles, besides he can climb well and swift: O let him be mine  
Crecu.

## The Pleasant History

### *The Moral.*

By the violence of the Bear, the Wolf, and the Cat, in pursuing the Fox to death, and making themselves executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies, and such from whom they have received mischief, in which they will many times rather hazard their honours, then their revenges, so blind is wrath, and deformed, it makes men that are cloathed therewith.

The Foxes patience and mild temper shewes, that when men are in extremities, they must make use of all their virtues, especially meeknesse.

Executioner, for it neither becometh Isegrim nor Bruine thus to doe to their Nephew: I am sorry I live to see it, But since you are set to be my hangmen, play your parts, and delay not: goe before Bruine, and lead my wife; follow Isegrim, and beware I escape not: you saie well said Bruine, and it is the best counsel I have heard you give. So forth they went, and Isegrim and all his friends guarded the Fox, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his bodie: When the Fox felt this usage, he was dismayed, yet said: *Why do you put your selves ( my best kinsmen ) to this pain, to do me hurt? beleere it I could well ask you forgiveness, though my paines be pleasant unto you: yet well I know, did my Aunt your wife understand of my trouble, she would for old affection sake not see me thus tormented. But I am subject to your will, and can endure your worst malice: as for Bruine and Tybert, I leave my revenge to justice, and with you the reward of Traitors, if you do not to me the worst of your powers: I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once unto me; I wish it were past already, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father die, and how quickly he vanished, therefore the worst of death is familiar unto me. When said Isegrim, let us go, for his curse shall not light on me by delaying: So he on one side and Bruine on the other, led the poor Fox to the gallows; Tybert running before with the halter, hopes to be revenged of his wrong formerly received. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King and Queen, and all the rest of the Nobilitie, took their place to see the Fox die. When Reynard full of sorrow, and busily bethinking himself how he might escape that danger and how to fithral and disgrace his proud enemies, and also how to draw the King on his parts, saying to himself, Though the King & many others be offended with me, as they have reason, for I have thoroughly deserved it, nevertheless yet I hope to live to be their best friend. During this meditation the Wolf said; Sir Bruine, now remember your injuries, take your revenge in a full measure, for the day is come wee wisht for; Tibert, ascend quickly and bying the rope to the Gallows, making a running noz, for this day you shall have your will*



## Of Reynard the Fox.

will of your enemies: and good sir Bruiae take heed he escape not, whilst I my selfe raise up the Ladder. When all things were prepared, the Fox said, How may my heart be heaue, for Death stands now in all his horrour before me, and I cannot escape: my dread Lord the King, and you my Sovereign Lady the Queen, and you my Lords that stand to behold to see me die, I beseech you grant me this charitable Boon; that I may unlock my heart before you, and clear my soul of her burthens, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for me: which done, my death will be easie, and the assistance of your prayers will raise my soul to heaven.

for that soon  
est doth inflame  
with mens nature,  
and drawes  
forth pitty,  
whereas  
roughness ever  
increaseth  
mischiefe.

### CHAP. 12.

Now Reynard made his Confession before the King.

Every creature now took compassion on the Fox, and said his request was small, beseeching the King to grant it: which was done, And then the Fox thus spake: Help me, Heavens: for I see no man here whom I have not offended: yet was this evil no natural inclination in me, for in my Youth I was accounted as virtuous as any breathing: this know, I have played with the Lambs all the day long, and took delight in their prettie bleating, yet at last in my plate I bit one, and the taste of the Blood was so sweet, that since I could never forbear it; This liquorish humor drew me into the Woods amongst the Goats, where hearing the bleating of the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after, two more, which slaughter made me so hardie, that then I fell to murther Hens, Geese, and other Poultry. And thus my crimes increased by custom, and laste so possess me, that all was fish which came to my net. After this in (the Winter season) I met with Isgrim whereas he lay hid under a hollow tree, and he unfolded unto me how he was my Uncle, and said the Pedegree down so plain, that from that day forth we became fellows and companions: Which knot of friendship I may ever curse, for then began the flood of our thefts and slaughters;

he

## The plea fant History

hee stole the grāt things, & the small; he murdered Pables, &  
the meanest Subjeas: and in all our actions his Ware still



was ever the greatest: when he got a Ram, a Calf, or  
Wether, his furie would hardly affoord me the horns to pick  
on: nay when he had an Oxe, or a Cow, after himself, his  
Wife,

## of Reynard the Fox.

wife and his seven childzen were serbed, nothing remained to me but the bare bones to pick on. Whts I speak not in that I wanted (for it is well known I have more plate, Jewels, and coine, then twenty Carts are able to carry) but onely to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speak of this infinite treasure and riches, his heart grew inflamed with a desire thereof: and he said Reynard, where is that treasure you speak of? The Fox answered, My Lord, I shall willingly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stolne, and had it not been stolne in that manner as it was, it had cost your Highnesse your life (which heavens I beseech keep ever in their protection). When the Quen heard that dangerous speech, she started, and said; What dangers are these you speak of, Reynard? I do command you upon your souls health, to unfold these doubtfull speeches, and to keep nothing concealed which concernes the life of my deead Lord. The Fox with a sorrowfull and sad countenance replied to the Quen, O my deead Sovereign Lady, at what infinite ease were I, if I might die at this present: but gracious Madam, your conjuration and the health of mine owne soul so preballeth with me, that I will discharge my conscience, and yet speak nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of my damnation. 'Tis true, the King should have ben pitcously murdered by his owne people, and I must confesse by those of my dearest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of mine owne soul, and the fealty to the King command the contrary: The King much perplext at this discovery, said: Is this true Reynard, which you protest? the Fox answered, Alas, my deead Lord, you see the rare wherein I stand, and how small a land is left in my pooe glasse to run: Can your Majestie imagine I will now dissemble? wht can the whole world avail me, when my soul perissheth? and at that he trembled and look'd so pitifully, that the Quen had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his owne Regall person to take some pity of the Fox, and to command all his subjects to hold their peace, and keep silent till he had spoke the uttermost of his knowledge:

## The pleasant History

*The Moral.*

By the Foxes confession and accusation of his enemies, is expressed a three fold subtilty in the Fox: First, by his voluntary confession of his faults, is shewed his sorrow for the same, and the little hope he had of life, which piercing into the weak nature of the Queen, being a woman, and subject to pity, begot much compassion to wards him.

2. The accusing of those whom he was known most assuredly to love, was a means to draw beliefe to that he spake.

3. The ingaging of the life of the King, and making the treason so foul, was a way to as- fright the

all which was presently done, and the Fox proceeded in this manner: Since it is the pleasure of my sovereign Lord the King, and that his royal life lieth in the ballance with my present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capital and foul treason, and in the relation not spare any guilty person for any respect whatsoever; whether it be blood, greatnesse, or authoritie: Know then, my dread sovereign Lord the King, that my father by a strange accident, digging in the ground, found out King Emericks treasure; being a masse infinite and innumerable, of which being possesse, he grew so proud and haughtie: that he held in scorn all the Beasts of the Wilderness, which before had been kinsmen and companions; at last he caused Tybert the Cat to go into the vasse Forest of Arden to Bruine the Bear, and to tender to him his homage and fealty, saying, If it would please him to be King, he should come into Flaunders, where he would shew him means how to set his Crown upon his head. Bruin was gladd of this Embassage (for he was exceeding ambitious and had long thirsted for sovereignty) and thereupon came into Flaunders, where my Father received him nobly. When presently he sent for his wife Grimba: my Pephew, and for Hegrim the Wolf, and for Tybert the Cat: then these five coming betwixen Grun, and the village called Else, they held a solemn Council for the space of a whole night: in which by the assistance of the Devil, and the strong confidence of my fathers riches, it was there concluded, that your Majestie should be forthwith murdered: which to effect, they took a solemn oath in this manner: The Bear, my Father, Grimbar, and the Cat, laying their hands on Hegrims Crown, whose first to make Bruine their King, & to place him in the Chair of Estate at Acon, and to set the Imperial Diadem on his head: and if by any of your Majesties blood and alliance they should be gainesaid, that then my Father with his treasure should hire those which should utterly chase and rot them out of the Forest. Now after this determination held and finished, it happened that my Pephew Grimbar being on a time high stouped with wine, he discovered this damnable plot to dame Slo-  
pard

## Of Reynard the Fox.

pard his wife, commanded her upon her life to keep secret the Queen, and same; but she forgotfull of her charge, disclosed it in confession to my wife, as they went a Pilgrimage over an Heath, with like conjuration of secrecie: but she (women-like) contained it no longer then till she met with me, and gave me a full knowledge of all that passed; yet so, as by all meanes I must keep it secret too: for she had sworn by the three Kings of Cullen never to disclose it: and wit hall, she gave me such assurance by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true which she had spoken, insomuch, that the very affright thereof made my hair stand upright, and my heart became like Lead, cold and heavy in my bosome, which made me call to mind the story of the Frogs, who being free without subjection, complained to Jupiter, and desired they might have a King to rule and govern over them, and he presently sent them a Stork, which eat and detoured them up: so that by his tyranny they became the most miserable of all creatures; then they complained again to Jupiter for redresse, but it was then too late; for they that could not be content with their freedom, must now of necessity suffer in thraldome.

Thus I feared it might happen with us, and thus I sorrowed for your Majesty, although you little respect my grieving: I know that ambition of the Bear, and his tyranny is too great; that should the Government come into his hands, (as heaven forbid) the whole Commonwealth will be destroyed: Besides, I know your Majesty of so royall and Princely birth: so mighty, so gracious, and so mercifull, that it had been a damnable exchange, to have seen a ravenous Bear to sit in the throne of a royall Lyon; for there is in the Bear, and in his generation, more prodigall looseness and inconstancie, then in any Beast whatsoever. But to proceed from this sorrow, I began to meditate how I might undo my Fathers false and wicked conspiracies, who sought to bring a base Traitor and a slave into the throne Emperiall: for I well perceived so long as he held the Treasurie, there was a possibility of deposing your Majesty, and this troubled my thoughts exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might say out where



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his own desire my Fathers Treasure was hid, and to that end I watcht and will make him attended night and day in the Woods, in the Bushes, and in where such credit is given, there commonly the wicked cleape from punishment, as here is sell our with the Fox.



the open fields: nay, in all places wheresoever my father laid his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending. Now it hapened on a time as I was laid down flat on the ground, I saw

## of Reynard the Fox.

saw my father come running out of a hole, and as soon as he was come out, he gazed round about him, to see if any discovered him; then seeing the coast clear, he stopped the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth and plain, that no curious eye could discern a difference betwixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his tail he stroked over, and with his mouth so smoothed it that no man might perceive it: and indeed that and many other subtilties, I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went towards the village about his private affairs: then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtiltie, I quickly found it out, then entered the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to help me, and we ceased not day nor night, with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry and convey away this treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded, that Isegrim the Wolf should travell over all the Kingdom, and promise to all Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruine for their soveraign, and defend his title, a full peares p<sup>er</sup> beforehand. And in this journey my father accompanied him, carrying letters Patents signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was rob'd of the wealth which should supple his treason: When this negotiation was finished betwixen Elve and Soame, and a world of valiant soldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruine and his consort, to whom they declared the many perills they had escaped in the Dukedome of Saxony: where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds, so as they hardly escaped with life: after this relation they shewed Bruine the muster-rolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for there was of Isegrims lineage about twelve hundred sworn to the actions, he does the Beares own kindred,

## The Pleasant History

the Foxes, the Cats, and the Daffens, all which would be in readinesse upon an hours warning. All this I found out ( I walle Heaken ) by perfect intelligence : now things being brought to this perfection, my father went to his Cave of treasure : but when he found it open, spoiled and ransackt, it is not in me to expresse the infinite agony and sorrow he fell into, that grief converting to madnesse, and madnesse to desperation : suddenly he went to the next tree and hanged himself.

Thus by my Art onely was the Treason of Braine defeated, for which I now suffer : from hence sprang all misfortune as thus : These foule traytors Braine and Islegian, being of the Kings privatest Counsell, and sitting in high and great Authority, tread upon me poore Reynard, and work my disgrace : notwithstanding for your Majesties sake, I have lost my naturall Father. O my deare Lord ! what is he, or who can tender you a better affection, thus to lose himself to save you ? The King and Queen having great hope to get this inestimable treasure from Reynard, take him from the Gibbet, and intreated him to unfold where this great treasure was. But the Fox replied, O my Lord, shall I make mine enemies my heirs ? Shall these Traytors which take away my life, and would devour yours, be possessors of the good I enjoy ? No, that's a mannes I never dye guilty of. When said the Queen, fear not Reynard, the King shall save your life, and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth swear Faith and true Allegiance to his Majesty. The Fox answered : Dearest Madam, if the King out of his Royall nature will give credit to my truth and forgive my former offences ; there was never King so rich as I will make him. When the King staying the Queen, said : Madam, will you believe the Fox : know you not that it is his naturall quality to lye, steal, and deceive ? The Queen answered, My dear Lord, now you may boldly believe him, for howsoever in his prosperitie he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed ; why he spareth not to accuse his own father, nay Grimbard his dearest Nephew and kinsman ; had he dissembled, he might have

## of Reynard the Fox.

have laid his imputations on other Beasts, and not on those he loveth most intirely. Well Adam (said the King) you shall at this time rule me, and all the offenders of the Fox I will clearly pardon: yet with this Protestation, That if ever againe he offend in the smallest crime whatsoever, that not onely himself, but his whole generation I will utterly root out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart, and said, My dread Lord, it were a huge shame in me, should I speak any untruths in this great presence. When the King taking a straw from the ground, pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either he, or his Father had ever committed: At the Fox now began to smile, it was no wonder, the sworneesse of life requires it: yet he fell down before the King and Queen, and humbly thanked them for their meresse, protesting that for that favour he would make them the richest Princes in the world. And at these words the Fox took up a straw, and profered it unto the King, and said to him, My dread Lord, I beseech your Majestie to receive this plegg as a surrender unto your Majestie of all the Treasure that the great King Emerick was master of, with which I freely infeoffe you out of my meer voluntary and free motion. At these words the King received the straw, and smilingly gave the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox laughed out-right to think of the abuse. From that day forward no mans counsell prevailed with the King as the Foxes; which the Fox seeing, said to the King: My gracious Lord! you shall understand, that at the West-side of Flanders there standeth a Wood called Husterloe, near to which runneth a River named Creckenpit: this is a Wildernesse so vaste, and unpasable, that hardly in all the year there cometh either man or woman in the same. In it I have hid this Treasure, whither I would have your Majestie and the Queen to go, for I know none but your selves whom I dare trust in so great a design: and when your Highness comes thither, you shall finde two Witchin trees growing by the pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall finde the Treasure, which

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which consisteth of the Coine, rich Jewels, and the wealthy Crown which King Ermeick wore. With which Crown Brune the Bear should have been Crowned, if his treason had succeeded according to his determination: there shall you see also many rich and costly precious stones, of which when you are possesse, then remember the love of your servant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your self help to digge for this Treasure, for else I shall never finde it. I have heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Cullen, but Crekenpi I never heard of: therefore I fear you dissemble. The Fox blushed at those words, yet with a bold countenance he said: is your Majestie so doubtfull of my faith? nay then I will approve my words by publique testimony: and with that he called forth Kayward the Hare, from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before the King, charging him upon his Faith and Allegiance which he boze to the King and Queen, to answer truly to such questions as he should ask him. The Hare answered, I will speak truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same. When the Fox said: Know you not where Crekenpi standeth? Yes said the Hare, I have known it any time this dozen yeares, it standeth in a wood called Hutterloe, upon a best and wilde Wildernesse, where I have endured much torment both of hunger and cold: Besides, it was there where Father Simony the Fryer made false Coine, with which he supported himselfe and his fellowes. Yet that was before I and Ring the Hound became companions. Well said the Fox, you have spoken sufficiently: go to your place again: so away went the Hare. When said the Fox, My soveraign Lord the King, what say you now to my relation, am I worthy of your belife or no? the King said, Yes Reynard, and I beseech thee excuse my Jealousies, it was my ignorance which did thee evill: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may go to the pit where this Treasure lyeth. The Fox answered, Alas my Lord, do you imagine that I wend I can go with you: If it were so that I might go without your dishonour, which I cannot do, Fox you shall understand



## of Reynard the Fox.

stand, (though it be my disgrace) that when I sagram the Woll  
in the Devils name, would needs grow religious and turn a  
Ponke: that then the permission of meat which was for six  
Ponke, was too little for him alone. Whereupon he complain-  
ed so pttisally unto me, that I commiserating his case, ( being  
my kinsman ) gave him consell to run away, which he did:  
Whereupon I stand accursed, and excommunicated under the  
Popes sentence: and am determined to morrow as soon as the  
Sun ariseth, to take my way towards Rome to be absolved,  
and from Rome I intend to crosse the Seas to the Holy land;  
and will ueber return again to my native Country: till I have  
done so much good, and satisfied for my sins; that I may with  
honour and reputation attend on your Highnesses person. The  
King hearing this, said: Since you stand accursed in the cen-  
sures of the Church, I may not have you about me, and there-  
fore I will at this time take Kayward the Hare, and some o-  
thers with me to Crekenph: and onely command you Reynard,  
as you respect my favour, to clear your self of his Holinesses  
curse. My Lord (said the Fox) it is the onely reason of my  
going to Rome, neither will I rest night nor day, till I have  
gotten a full absolution: the course you take is good ( said the  
King ) go on and prosper in your intent and purpose.

### CHAP. 13.

How Reynard the Fox was honoured of all Beasts by the  
Kings Commandment.

As soon as this conference was ended, the royall King  
mounted upon his high Throne made in manner of a  
scaffold, made of fair squared Stone, and then commanded  
a generall silence amongst all his Subjects and that every  
one should take his place according to his Birth, or dignity in  
Office, onely the Fox was placed between the King and the  
Deen. Then said the King: Hear all you Noble men,  
Knights, Gentlemen, and others of honourable quality:  
This Reynard, one of the chief and chiefe Officers of my  
household,



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houshold, whose offences had brought him to the least reck-  
ning of his life; as being in the hands of the Law and Justice:



both this day in requitall of those Injuries, done that Noble  
and worthy Services to the State, that both my selfe and my  
Queen, stand bound to render him our best grace and labour.

Ther e.

## of Reynard the Fox.

Therefore know, that for diuers things best known unto our selues, we haue freely giuen pardon to all his offences, and restor'd back to him whatsoever to us was confiscate: therefore henceforth I command all of you, upon the pain and hazard of your dearest liues, that you fall not from this day forthward to do all reverence and honour, not onely to Reynard himself, but also to his Wife and Children, wheresoeuer or wheresoeuer you shall meet them, whether by night, or by day: not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble mine ears with any more complaints of him: for his wickednesse he hath cast behinde him, and will no more be guilty of wrong doing: which to effect the better, to morrow very early he taketh his journey towards Rome, where from the Pope he will purchase a free Pardon and Indulgence for all his offences, and then on Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This speech when Tisellin the Raven heard, he flew to Bruine, Ilegrim, and Tibert, and said; Wretched creature! how are your fortunes changed? or how can you indure to hear these things? Why Reynard is now a Courtier, a Counsellour, nay the prime Favourite: his offences are forgiven, and you are all betrayed, and sold unto bondage. Ilegrim answered; It is impossible Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered: do not deceiue your selues (said the Raven) for it is true as that now I speak it. When went the Wolf and the Bear to the King; but the Cat said, and was so for a frighted with the newes, that to purchase the Foxes friendshipp again, she would not onely haue forgiven the evils received, but willingly haue run into a second hazard. But now Ilegrim with great maiestie and pride trauelling ouer the fields, came before the King and Queen, and with most bitter and cruel words, inbeighed against the Fox in such a passionate and impudent manner, that the King being infinitely moved with displeasure, caused the Wolf and the Bear to be presently arrested upon high Treason: which suddenly was done with all violence and fury, and they were bound hand and foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor move from the place where they were couched. Now when the Fox

### *The Moral.*

By this honour done to the Fox, you may see, that when policy and wisdom get the upper hand of their enemies, it never resteth till it maketh known to the world the greatness of their Conquest, both to expresse their ambition, as also to extenuate their crime, and keep their foes in awe with the goodly shew of new grace and fauour. By the complaint of the Raven, is shewed the jealousie and fear of the weaker sort, and how in their troubles they flie to the Heads of faction, and stir them (with their owne abuses) to prevent evils.

## The pleasant Historie

By the Wolf  
and the Beers  
commitment,  
is shewed, that  
when men  
complain in  
unseasonable  
times, they  
ever run them-  
selves into  
most apparent  
and grievous  
mischiefes.

had thus intrahled and intangled them, he so laboured with  
the Queen, that he got leave to have so much of the Beers  
skin, as would make him a large Ship for his Journey:



Which granted, he wanted nothing but a strong pair of  
Shoes to defend his feet from the Stones in his travel:  
where.

## of Reynard the Fox.

Whereupon he said to the Queen; *Madam*, I am your *Pilgrim*; and if it would please your Majesty but to take it into your consideration, you shall find that *Sir Isegrim* hath a pair of excellent long lasting ones, which would you purchase to bestow upon me, I would pay for your Majesties service in all my travel, above my charitable devotion. Also mine Aunt, dame *Arsesinde*, hath other two shoo's, which would your Majesty bestow upon me, I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you do to her any wrong, because she goes seldom abroad. The Queen replied, *Reynard*, I cannot perceive how you can want such shoo's; for your journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in respect of the steepe mountains, and the gravelly waies, and therefore you shall have (though it touch their life never so nearly) from each of them a pair of shoo's to accomplish and finish your journey.

### CHAP. 14.

How *Isegrim* and his wife *Arsesinde* had their shoo's plucked off for *Reynard* to wear to *Rome*.

After the Fox had made this petition, *Isegrim* was taken, and his shoo's pulled off in most cruel and violent manner, so that all the veins and sinews lay naked, nor durst the poor massacred Wolf either complain or resist. After he had been thus tormented, then dame *Arsesinde* his wife was used on the same manner on her hinder-foot, as her husband was on his fore-foot: which the Fox seeing, said to her in a scornful manner: Dear Aunt, how much am I bound to you, that takes all this pains for my sake? questionless you shall be a sharer in my Pilgrimage, and take part in the pardon I shall bring from beyond the seas by the help of your shoo's. Then *Arsesinde* (though speech were troublesome to her) said: Well *Sir Reynard*, you have your will accomplished; yet heaven (I hope) will requite the mis-doer. This she said, but her husband and the Bear lay mute, for their wounds were grievous unto them: and surely had the Cat been there

## The pleasant History

### *The Moral.*

In the spoyle  
ing the Bear  
of his skin,  
and the Wolf  
of his shoes,  
is shewed,  
both the malice  
of a revengeful enemy,  
that never thinks his  
Foe weakened enough,  
till he be utterly ruined,  
as also the indiscretion  
of an over-angry  
nature, that cannot stay  
to give his wrongs  
a duantage, but utters  
his spleen before he can  
either get relief or remedy.  
By the ceremonies done  
to the Fox, and the  
curiosity of the Ram,  
is shewed, that in  
cases of indifferency,  
(where authority hath  
power to command)  
for any man to stand  
upon nice and puritanicall  
seems wish his superiors,  
doth not onely breed

also, he had not escap'd some extream punishment. The next morning very early, Reynard causing his shoes to be wel oyled, put them on, and made them as fit to his feet, as they were to the Wolves, and then went to the King and Queen, and said, My Lord, and Lady, your poor subject boweth himself before your Majesties, humbly beseeching your Highnesses, to deliver me my male and my staffe blest, according to the custome due unto Pilgrims.

At his said, the King sent for Bellin the Ramme, and commanded him to say solemne Masse before the Fox, and to deliver him his staffe, and his male: but the Ram refused, saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Popes curse: and the King said, what of that; have not our Doctors told us, that if a man commit all the sinnes in the world, yet if he repent himself, be sorry, do penance, and walke as the prests shall instruct him, that all is clearly forgiven him: and hath not Reynard done all this? then answered Bellin, Sir, I am loath to meddle herein, yet if your Majestie will bear me harmlesse against the Bishop of Prebendor, (my ordinary) and against the Arch-deacon of Looswind, and Rapiamus his Officiall, I will effect your commandment. At this the King grew angry, and said, I stoone to be beholding unto you: but when the Ram saw the King offended, he shook for fear, and ran presently to the Altar; and sung Masse, and used many ceremonies over the Fox, who gave little respect unto them, more then the desire he had to enjoy the honour. Now when Bellin the Ram had finished his Orisons, he presently hung about Reynards neck his male, which was made of the Bears skin, and put into his right fist a Palmers staffe: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly upon the King, as if he had been loath to depart; and fained to weep (though sorrow he were never farther asunder) onely his worst grief was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Bear and the Wolf were, yet he took his leave of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart, (for knowing his own knavery, he was very desirous to be gone)



## of Reynard the Fox.

gone.) The King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry we must part thus suddenly: then said the Fox, There is no remedy my Lord, nor ought I be slow in so about an action. When the King took leave, and commanded all that were about him (but the Bear and the Wolf) to attend Reynard some part of his journey. One that had seen how gallant and personable Reynard was, and how well his staffe and his male became him: as also how fit his shoes were for his feet, it could not have chosen but have witted in him very much laughter: yet the Fox carried himself outwardly very demurely: howbeit inwardly he smiled at the abuses he had cast amongst them, especially to see his enemies, now his attendants, and the King, whom he had most palpably wronged with false lies, to be aiding to all his vain desires, did accompany him also as if they had been his companions. But the Fox being now onward his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Majesty trouble your self no further, but in respect of your ease, and the danger that might happen to your royall person, for you have arrested two capitall Traitors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite, which might insue thereon. And thus said, he stood upon his hinder feet, and intreated the bests that were in his company, and would be partakers of his pardon, that they would pray for him: which done, he departed from the King with an exceeding sad and heavy countenance: When turning to Kayward the Hare, and Bellin the Ram, he said with a smiling countenance: My best friends, shall we part thus soon? I know your loves will not leave me yet: with you two I was never offended, and your conversations are agreeable to my nature: for you are mild, loving, and courteous, religious, and full of wise counsel, even such as my self was when I was first a Recluse: if you have a few green leaves, or a little grasse, you are well content, as with all the bread and fish in the world, and you are temperate and modest: and thus with a word of such like flattering words, he inticed the two, that they were content to go along with him.



## The pleasant Historie

### CHAP. 15.

How *Kayward* the Hare was slain by *Reynard* the Fox, and sent by the Ram to the King

**T**HUS marched these three together, and when *Reynard* was come to the gates of his own house, he said to *Bellin* cousin, I will intreate you to stay here without a little, whilst I and *Kayward* go in: for I would have him a witness of some private passages betwixt me and my wife, *Bellin* was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into *Malleparadus*, where they found dame *Ermelin* lying on the ground, with her younglins about her; who had sorrowed exceedingly for the losse and danger of her husband: but when she saw his return, her joy was ten times doubled: But beholding his male, his staffe, and his shooes, she grew into great admiration, and said, Dear husband, how have you fared: to whom he delivered from point to point, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court; as well his danger, as release, and that now he was to go a pilgrimage, having left *Bruine* and *Ilggrim* to pledge for him till his returne: as for *Kayward*, he said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to do with him what they pleased, affirming, that *Kayward* was the first that had complained of him, for which questionlesse he vowed to be sharpely revenged. When *Kayward* heard these words, he was much appaled, and would faine have fled away, but he could not: for the Fox had got between him and the Gate, who presently seized the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cried unto *Bellin* for helpe, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torn out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, and drinking the blood to the Kings health. but *Ermelin* growing suspicious, said, I fear, *Reynard*, you mock me: as you love me, tell me how you sped at the Court. When he told her how extreamply he had flattered the King and the Queen, and abused them with a fained promise of treasure, that was not, in so much, that he knew when it should come to be revealed,  
the

## Of Reynard the Fox.

the King would take all the meanes he could to destroy him. *The Moral:*  
 And therefore Wolfe, said he, there is no remedie but we must  
 Reale from herce, into some other Forrest where we may

By the killing  
 of the Hare, is  
 shewed, that  
 whereas men  
 out of the  
 lightnesse and  
 easinesse of  
 their belief,  
 do give credit  
 to the entice-  
 ments of their  
 Adversaries, or  
 new reconcil-  
 ed Friends,  
 that evermore  
 some inevita-  
 ble mischief  
 doth still fol-  
 low such folly  
 and improvi-  
 dence. Also  
 how easily a  
 malicious man  
 can finde cause  
 of quarrell w<sup>th</sup>  
 such as are too  
 weak for them,  
 or as eye-sores  
 stand between  
 them and the  
 end of their  
 purposes, or  
 are able to re-  
 veal and hin-  
 der their pro-  
 jects

By the Rams  
 carrying the  
 Hares head to  
 the Lion, and  
 taking upon  
 him to indice  
 the Letters,



live in better safety, and in a place more fruitfull, where we  
 shall have all the delicate meates that can be w<sup>th</sup> for. cleare  
 I Springs,

## The pleasant History

which he saw Springs, fresh Rivers, cool Shades, and wholsom aire: here I know is no abiding: and now I have gotten my thumb out of the Kings mouth, I will no more come within the danger of his talons. Yet (saide Ermelin) I have no fancy to go from hence, to a place where I am utterly unacquainted: here we possesse all that we desire, and you are a Lord over all that liues about you, and it is but an indiscreet hazard, to change a certaine good for a hoped contentment: besides, we are here safe enough, and should the King besiege us never so straightly, yet have we so many passages and by-holes, that he can neither cut from us reliefe, or liberty. What reason have we then to flie beyond Seas? but you have sworne it, that's my veration. Fay Dame (saide the Fox) grieve not at that: the more forsworne, the lesse forlozne: Bestoes I have heard some say, that a forsworn Oath is no Oath, nor do I make account that this pilgrimage will not abate me a rush. And therefore I am resolved, and will not start from hence, but follow thy counsell: If the King do hunt after me, I will guard my selfe as well as I am able, and against his Power apply my Policy: so that being forced to open my sacke, let him not blame me if he catch hurt by his owne surp.

All this while stood Bellin the Ram at the Gate, and grew exceedingly angry, both against the Fox and the Hare, that they made him waite so long: and therefore called out aloud, for Reynard to come away: Which when Reynard heard, he went forth, and said softly to the Ramme, Good Kellin be not offended: Kyward is in earnest conference with his dearest Aunt, and intreated me to say unto you, that if you would be pleased to walke before, he would speedily overtake you, for he is light of foot and speedier then you: nor will his Aunt part with him thus suddenly, for she and her children are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) me thought I heard Kyward cry for help. How, cry for helpe? can you imagine he shall receive hurt in my House? far be such a thought from you: but I will tell you the reason: as soone as he were come into my house, and that Ermelin my

Wiffe

## of Reynard the Fox.

Wisse understood of my pilgrimage, presently she fell dolour in a stowne: which when Kyward saw, he cried aloud: O Bellin come and help my Aunt, she dies, she dies: then said the Ram, In sadnesse I mistooke the cry, and thought the Hare had been in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the Fox, but before he should have any injury in my house, I would leaue to respect either Wisse or Children. But letting this discourse passe, you remember Bellin, that yesterday the King and his Councell commanded me, that before I departed from the Land, I should send unto him two Letters, which I have made ready, and will intreat you my dearest Cousin to bear them to his Majestie. The Ram answered, I would willingly do you the service, if there be nothing but honourable matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprovided of any thing to carry them in. The Fox said, that is provided for you already, for you shall have my male, which you may conveniently hang about your neck: I know they will be thankfully received of his Majestie, for they contain matter of great importance. When Bellin promised to carry them: So the Fox returned into the house, and took the male, and put therein the head of Kyward, and brought it to the Ram, and gave him a great charge not to looke therein, till it was presented to the King, as he did expect the Kings favour: and that he might farther indeare himselfe with his Majestie, he bade the Ram take upon him the intoting of the Letters. which will be so pleasing to the King, that questionlesse he will poure upon you many favours.

The Ram was exceeding glad of his advice, and thanked the Fox, saying, that the favours he did him should not die unrequited: and I know it will be much to mine honour, when the King shall thinke I am able to intice with so great perfection: for I know there be many in these daies as ignorant as my selfe, that are risen to high promotion, onely by taking upon them the moorth of other mens Labours: And therefore why may not I run the same course also? But I pray you Reynard farther advise me: is it meete that I take Kyward the Hare along with me? O by no meanes (said the

## The Pleasant History

For let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will yet not part with him. Besides, I have other secret things to impart to him, which may not yet be revealed. This said, Bellin took leade of the Fox, and went toward the Court, in which journey he made such speed, that he came thither before noon, where he found the King in his Palace, sitting amongst the Nobility.



## Of Reynard the Fox.

The King wondered when he saw the Raim come in with the male which was made of the Beares skin, and said: Whence comest thou Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you have that about you? Bellin answered: my dread Lord, I attended the noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired me to beare certaine Letters to your Majestie of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he delivered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my self had formerly indited, and I doubt not but are such as will give your Highnesse both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be delivered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist, and understanding all Languages: that he might reade them publickly: so he and Tybart the Cat toke the male from Bellins neck, and opening the same, instead of Letters, they drew out the head of Kyward the Hare: at which being amazed, they said: Woe and alas, what Letters call you these? Believe it, my dread Lord, here is nothing but the head of poor murdered Kyward. Which the King seeing (he said) Alas! how unfortunate was I to believe the traiterous Fox? And with that being oppress'd with anger, grief, and shame, he held down his head for a good space, and so did the Queen also: but in the end shaking of his curled locks, he groan'd out such a dreadful noise, that all the beasts of the Forrest did tremble to hear. Then spake Sir Firapel the Usbard, who was the Kings nearest kinsman, and said: Why is your Majestie thus vexed in heart? this sorrow might serve for the Queens Funeral, I do beseech you assuage your anguish: Are not you King and master of this Country? and are not all things subject to your power? The King replied, Cousin, this is a mischief beyond indurance, I am betrayed by a hase villain, and Traitor, and have been made to wrong and abuse my best friends and subjects, even those of my blood, and nearest counsel; I mean the stout Bruin, and valliant Hegerim, whose wrongs speak loud to my dishonour, yet in my self I found an unwilling-nesse thereto, onely my Queens pttie working upon the ca-  
sinesse



## The Pleasant History



finess of my belt, hath made me guilty of that which will  
 ebermore griebe me. Why (said the Lpbard) what of all this?  
 you are aboue all you. *knights*, and with one smile can salbe  
 the greatest wound that can be made in honour, you have po-  
 wer to recompence, and what reputation is it that r ward will  
 not sawder? as for the Bear which lost his skin, the Wolfe  
 and his wife Dame Arsewilde, that lost their shoes, you may  
 in recompence (since Bellin hath confest himself a party in this  
 foul murder) bestow him and his substance upon the parties  
 grieved: as for Reynard, we will go and besiege his Castle,  
 and having arrested his person, hang him up by the Law of  
 Arms without farther trial.

### C H A P. 16.

How *Bellin* the Ramme, and his Lineage, were given to the  
 Bear and the Wolfe.

**T**O this motion of the Lpbard the King consented, so that  
 Firapell forthwith went to the prison, where the Bear  
 and

## of Reynard the Fox.

and the Wolfe were, and said : My Lords, I bring a free  
and generall pardon from the King, with his love, and a re-  
sognition of your injuries : which to recompence in some large



manner out of his Princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow  
upon you both Bellin the Ram, and his whole generation, with  
what.

## The Pleasant History

whatsoever they possesse, and is now confiscate to his Majestie, to hold from henceforth, to you and yours, till dooms-day, with full Commission to slay, kill and devour them wheresoever you finde them; be it in Woods, Fields or Mountains. And also the King granted unto you full power to hunt, kill, or wound Reynard the Fox wheresoever you finde him, or any of his lineage or generation: and of this great privilege you shall receive Lettters Patents at your pleasure, with onely a reservation of your fealty and homage to be due to his Majesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much to your honour. Thus was the peace made between the King and these Nobles by the Lybard, and Bellin the Ram was forthwith slain by them; and all these Privileges both the Wolf hold to this hour, nor could ever any reconciliation be made between them and the Rams kindred. When this peace was thus finished, the King for joy thereof proclaimed a Feast to be held for twelve daies after, which was done with all solemnitie.

To this feast came all manner of wilde Beasts, for it was universally known through the whole Kingdom, nor was there wanting any delight or pleasure that could be imagined, as musick, dancing, masking, and all Princely recreations: As for severall meates they were in that abundance, that the Court seemed a store-house which could not be emptied. Also to this feast resorted abundance of feathered fowl, and all other Creatures that held peace with his Majesty, and no one missing but the Fox onely. Now after this feast has thus continued in all pomp the space of eight daies, about high-noon came Laprell the Cony before the King and Queen, as they sate at dinner, and with a heave and lamentable voice, said; My gracious and great Lord, have pitie upon my misery, and attend my complaint, which is of great violence, force and murder, which Reynard the Fox would yesterday have committed against me, as I passed by the Cote of Malopardus, where standing without his gates, attired like a Pilgrime, I supposing to passe peaceably by him toward my nest: hee cross my way, saying his Words so devoutly, that I saluted

## of Reynard the Fox.

whited him: but he returning no answer, stretch forth his right foot, and gave me such a blow on the neck, between the



head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had been wrenched from my body: but yet so much memory was left me, that I leapt from his claws; though most grievously hurt and wounded,

*The Moral.*  
By the giving of Bellin unto his enemies, is shewed, that when simple men give themselves to pride and vain glory, they are over taken by their enemies, & made slaves to shame and destruction. By the complaint of the Conie, is shewed, that when the weak will believe the fair shews of the strong and cruel, and so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldom escape with life, or if they do by some hidden providence, yet it is not without ever some maine, either to their bodies or reputations. The complaint of the Rook, shews, that when the evil man sleepeth, or seemeth to have least power or in

## The pleasant History

ent of wicked- wounded. At this he grieved extreamly, because I escaped, nisse, that then onely of one of my eares he utterly deprived me; which I his thoughts beseech your Majesty in your royall nature to pittie, and that are most busi- this bloody murderer may not live thus to afflicte your pooz ed and labori- Subjects. Now whilſt the Conte was thus speaking to the ous to destroy the innocent, King, there came flying into the Court, Corbant the Rook, and the mis- who coming befoze the King, said: Great King, I beseech chief is more violent, then you vouchsafe to hear me, and pittie the complaint I shall ut- when he lyeth: so it is that I went this morning with Sharpbeake my most apparent wife, to recreate our selves on the Heath, and there we found and published himself an open enemy, wherefore the Re: nor'd the For laud on the ground like a dead carkasse, his eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth, like a dead simple and innocent ought to be most fearefull, and to keep farthest out of his danger. You id, so that we wandering at his strange plight, began to feel and touch his body, but found no life therein at all: then went my wife (poor carefull soul) and laid her head to his mouth, to see if he dyed any breath: which she had no sooner done; but the foule murderer awaiting his time, snatch'd her head into his mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I screamed out, and cryed: Woe is me, what misfortunes are these? But presently the murderer starts up, & reached at me with such a bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish, I was faine to flye up into a tree, where I saw him devour up my wife in such terrible manner, that the very thought is death to me in the repeating.

The massacre finished, the murderer departed, and I went to the place, and gathered the feathers of my lost wife, which here I humbly present befoze your Majesty, beseeching you to do me justice, and in such manner to revenge mine injury, that the world may speak fame of your great excellence; for thus to suffer your Lawes Protections, and safe Conducts to be violated, is a broke, will be such offeupation an scandall to you: Crown and Dignity, that your very neighbours and Colleagu's, will note and point at you: remissness: besides the sufferance of the evil will make you guilty of the trespass, for which arise from such sufferance: But to your great consideration I leave it: since I know your Majesty's own goodness will make you careful of your honour and royalty.

CHAP.

## Of Reynard the Fox,

### CHAP. 17.

How the King was angry at these complaints, took counsel for revenge; and how *Reynard* was forewarned by *Grimbard* the Brock.

**T**he royal King was much moved with anger, when he heard these complaints both of the Coney and the Rook; so that his eyes darting out fire amongst the beams of Majesty, his countenance was dreadful and cruel to look on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end he said; By my Crown, and the truth I evermore reverence and owe unto the Queen my Wife, I will so revenge these outrages committed against my Crown and Dignity, that goodnesse shall adoe me, and the wicked shall die with the remembrance: his falsehood and flatterie shall no more get belief in me.

Is this his journey to Rome, and to the Holy Land? are these the fruits of his Pale, his Staffe, and other ornaments be coming a devout Pilgrim? Well, he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my belief, but the persuasion of my Queen; nor am I the first that hath been deceived by that soft gender, since many great spirits have fallen through their inticements. And this said, he commanded all that were about him; both Noble, worthy, and every discreet spirit to assist him with their counsel, and to lay him down such sure ground for his revenge, that his honour and royaltie might be anew revived, and every offender made to know and feel the heauey price for their most unjust actions.

*Hegrim* the Wolf, and *Brune* the Bear, hearing the Kings words, were wonderfully well apaid, and doubted not but now to gain their full revenge against *Reynard*: yet still they kept silence, and spake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moved with their dumbnesse, and noting that none durst freely deliver their opinions: He began to bend his forehead: but the Queen after solempne reverence, said to the King: Monsieur, Pour Dieu croyez moi toutes



## The pleasant Historie



chofes qu'on vous, & ne jurez point legerement. Sir, it is not the part of any excellent wisdom to heltebe oz protest in any thing, till the matter be made most apparent and pregnant to his knowledg: neither should both his ears be engaged to any complaint, but one ever refected to entertaine the defence of any accused: For many times the accuser  
 excēpeth

## of Reynard the Fox.

exceedeth the accused in injurie. And therefore Audire alicram Partem, to hear the other Partie, is the act of perfect Justice: For my own part howsoever I have erred, yet I have strong ground for my persuasion, and whether Reynard be good or bad, yet it stands with your Graciousness not to proceed against him, but by the true form of your Lawes: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoever your sobriety can impose upon him. When the Queen had thus spoken, Firapel the Libard to second her intreatie, said; My Lord, the Queen hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your Majesty can strate from her judgment: Therefore let him take the due trial of your Lawes, and being found guilty of the trespasses whereof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appear not before your feast be ended, to clear himself, or submit to your mercie; then may your Highness proceed against him, as it shall seem best to your pleasure.

*The Moral.*

The anger of the Lion at the Foxes trespasses, shews the disposition of a good Prince; which is ever moved and offended, when his good subjects are injured. And the persuasion of the Queen and the Libard, shews the true temperance which every Prince should use when he administres Justice.

To this speech Isegrim the Wolf replied; Sir Firapel, for my own part, I think not any of this assembly will dissent from your counsel, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintain, that howsoever Reynard shall clear himself of these, and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: Yet I have that longeth in my bosome, which shall approve he hath so: scited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, onely touching the treasure of which he hath infused his Majesty to life at Crenpit in Hutterloe, there never came a false information from the mouth of any creature: for it was a lie made out of malice to wrong me and the Bear, and get himself libertie to rob and spoil all that passe by his house, as now he doth: but not withstanding I held it meet that all things be done as shall seem good to his majestie, or you Sir Firapel: Yet this beleeve, that if he had meant to have appeared he had been here long since, for he had summons given him by the Kings Messenger.

To this the King answered, I will have no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me allegiance or respect mine honour, that forthwith they make themselves

ready

## The Pleasant History

1 bitter promi-  
ses, and doubt  
full injuries,  
doth the utter-  
most. If he can to  
poison the re-  
paration of  
him he hateth.  
The Biorles  
going to the  
Fox, sheweth  
the office of a  
true friend,  
which be h-  
veith warning  
and advice to  
them they  
love, when  
they see them  
run into evil  
courses.  
The Foxes  
carelesse  
shews the true  
nature of a de-  
perate man;  
that when he  
hath plunged  
himself into  
the depth of  
evil, hath no-  
thing but an  
audacious  
countenance  
and an impu-  
dent shew, to  
make him  
seem innocent,  
yet evermore  
his heart is  
nipt with the  
stinging of his  
conscience, as o-  
as he is alone,  
which is the

ready for the war: and at the end of six dates appear before  
me with their Bowes, Cumis, Bumbards, Pikes and  
Halberds; some on horse-back, some on foot, for I will be-  
siege Malepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his ge-  
neration from the earth for ever: this if any dislike, let him  
turn his back, that I may know him for mine enemy. And  
they all cried with one voice, we are ready to attend your  
Majesty. When Grimbard the Bock heard this determina-  
tion he grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was despe-  
rate) and separating from the rest of the company, he ran  
with all speed possible to Malepardus, neither sparing bush  
nor brier, pale nor rail: and as he went, he said to himself;  
Alas my dear Uncle Reynard! into what hazards art thou  
drawn, having but one step betwixt thee and thy death; or  
at the best, thine everlasting banishment? Well may I grieve  
for thee, since thou art the top and honour of my house, art  
wise and politic, and a friend to thy friends when they  
stand in need of thy counsel; for with thy sweet language  
thou canst enchant all creatures, but all is now bootlesse.  
With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard  
to Malepardus, and found his Uncle Reynard standing at  
the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons  
as they came crawling out of their nest, to try how they could  
learn to fly. But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he  
staid, and said, Welcome my best beloved Nephew, the only  
hee I esteem above all my kindred: Surely you have run  
exceeding fast, for you sweat wonderfully: What newes  
man, how runs the squares at the Court? O Gimbard,  
exceeding ill with you; for you have forfeited both your life,  
honour, and estate. The King is up in armes against you  
with horse-men, and foot-men, and soldiers innumerable: be-  
sides Megrim and Bruine are now in more favour with his  
Majesty, then I am with you; therefore it is high time you  
have great care of your self, for their envie hath taught you  
to the quick; they have informed against you, that you are a  
thief and a murderer: and to second their informations. La-  
priel the Coney, and Corbant the Rook have made malicious  
com-

## of Reynard the Fox.

complaints against you, so that but your shamesfull death, I see torment of ei-  
no escape or freedom. very offender.



Thus (said the Fox) my dear Percheval, if this be the  
worst, let no sorrow affright you: but let us be cheerefull and  
pleasant together, for though the King and all the Court  
would

## The pleasant Historie

would sweare my death, yet will I be crated above them all, well may they prate and jangle, and fire themselves with their counsells but without the help of my wit and policie, neither can the Court or Common-wealth have any long continuance. Come then my best Nephew, let us enter into my Castle and feast. I have a pair of fat Pigeons for you, which are meat of pure and light digestion; I love not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood; yet come I say, my wife Ermeline will receive you kindly, but by all meanes report not to her of any dangers, for she is of soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into suddain sickness, for women are apt to entertain grief. When wee have feasted, I will then to morrow early in the morning go with you to the Court, and if I can but attaine speech with the King, I shall gail some deep enough, onely this I desire (dear Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as one friend and kinsman ought to do one by another. Doubt me not (said Grimbarde) for both my life and goods shal be at your service. I thank you Nephew (said the Fox) and you shall not find me ingratifull. Sir (said the Wock) be bold of this, that you shall come and make your answer before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you, for that favour the Queen and the Lords have purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the Fox) now eate I then a haire for their woork make. And this said, they went into Malepardo, and found Ermeline sitting amongst her younglings, who presently arose, and received the Wock with all reverence, and he on the other part saluted her and her children with all courtesie. Presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking their part though none had so much as they desired: then said the Fox, Nephew, how like you my children Rossel and Reynardine? I hope they will do honour to our family, they are towardly I assure you, for the one lately taught Chicken, and the other hath killed a Pullet: they are also good Duckers, and can both desert the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already adventure



## of Reynard the Fox.

adventure them farre, onely I mean first to instruct them how to escape the Gins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds; they are of the right heir Nephew, and like me, both in countenance and quality; they play grinning, in tangle sathing, and kill smiling: this is the true nature of the Fox, and in this they are perfect, which is great price unto me.

### CHAP. 18

How the Fox repening his sin, doth make his confession, and is absolved by the Brock.

**U**PON WHICH, said the Brock, you may be proud that you have such toward children: and reioice because they are of my blood. I thank you Nephew, (said the Fox) but I know your journey hath made you weary, therefore you shall go to your rest: to which the Brock consented, so they laid them down upon straw litter, and all slept soundly, but the Fox, whose heart was heavy with sorrow, lay studying, how he might best excuse himself before the King. But as soon as the morning began to rise from the top of the Mountaine he arose, and went with Grimbard towards the Court; yet before he went, he took leave of his wife and children; and said, Think not mine absence long; (dear wife and children) for I must go to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my stay be more then ordinarie, yet take no affright thereat; and what tidings soever you hear, yet consider all things for the best; and be carefull of your selves, and keep my Castle close, and well guarded: as for my self doubt not but I will defeat all mine enemies. Alas Reynard (said his wife) what moves you to take this sudain journey: the last time you were at the Court, you know what dangers you escaped; and you vowed never to see it again. Will you now run a second hazard? Dame (said the Fox) the occurrences of the world are others and uncertain; and we are subject to the strokes of fortune: but rest you content, there is necessity that I go, and I hope my stay shall not be above five daies



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at the uttermost, and so embracing his wife & children, he tooke leave and departed: and as they journeyed ower the Heath, Reynard said to the Wock: Nephew, since I was last shaven, I have committed many sins, therefore I beseech you let me make before you my confession, that I may passe with lesse trouble through my worst dangers.



## of Reynard the Fox.

Then he proceeded, and said: It is true Saphem that I made  
the Bear receive a great wound for the Mole which I did  
cut off his skinn; and I caused the Wolf, and his wife to



be strip of their shoes: I appeased the King one y with false-  
hood; I gained a confederacie agt it his Majesties life, by the  
Bear and the Wolf, when there was never any such determin-  
nation:

## The pleasant History

*The Moral.*

The Foxes shewing him self to the Brock, shewes the Art of all disemblers, which ever make devotion their cloak. By the buying off the Foal of the Mare, is shewed, that when proud men make instruments of wiser then themselves, & such as affect not their qualities, the service they do them is ever to bring them to mischief, &c. Also when ambition or covetousness blinds men, and makes them trust onely in their own skill and knowledge, that then they are ever so vainly overtaken with one mischief or another, and made a mock and scorn to their foes, and

nation: also I reported of great treasure to be hid in Hosterlo, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I flew Kyward, and betrayed Bellin. I wounded the Conie, and killed Dame Sharpbeake, the Cooks wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last Wrist one great deceipt which I committed, but I will reveal it, and thus it was.

As I went talking with the Wolf between Houthlust, and Elverding, we beheld a goodly Bay Mare grazing, with a black Sole by her side; which was exceeding fat and wanton: the Wolf at that instant was almost dead for hunger, in so much that he intreated mee to go to the Mare, and know if she would sell her sole? I went and demanded the question. The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for Money: I then asked the price? and she said, the price was written in her hinder foot, which if I pleased I might come and read it at my pleasure; but I that well understood her politick anger, said, It is truth that I cannot read, neither do I desire to buy your Sole, onely I am a messenger from the Wolf, who hath a great desire to have it. When (said the Mare) let him come himself: and I will give him satisfaction: When went I to the Wolf, and told him what the Mare said; assuring him, that if he pleased he might have his belly full of the Sole: provided he could read, for the price was written in the Mares hinder foot. Read (said the Wolf) what should aile me; I can, Couln read, both Latine, French, English, and Dutch, I have studied in Oxford, and argued with many Doctors; I have heard many stately Plays, and sitten in the place of Judgement: I have taken degrees in both the Lawes; nor is there that writing which I cannot decipher: So desiring me to stay for him there; away he went to the Mare, and crayed that he might see and read the price of the Sole: to which the Mare consented, and lifting up her hinder foot, which was newly shod with strong iron, and seven sharp nail-heads, as the Wolf look'd thereon, she wrote him so just upon the fore-head, that she threw him over and over, and he lay in a dead sound whilst a man might have ridden a mile and better; which done, away trotted the Mare with her Colt, and

## of Reynard the Fox.

and left the poor Wolf bloody and wounded, in so much <sup>such as led</sup> that he howled like a Dog: then went I to him, and said Sir <sup>them blind-</sup> Ilegim, dear Uncle, how do you, have you eaten too much of <sup>fold into the</sup> the Wolf? indeed you are unkind, that will give mee no <sup>evill.</sup> part with you. I went your message honestly; me thinks you have out slept your dinner: good Uncle tell me what was written under the Pares foot. Was it in Prose or Rime: indeed I would faine know it: I think it was a Trick-song, for I heard you sing: nay, you shew your scholer-ship in all the Arts.

Alas, Reynard, (alas said the Wolf) I pray you forbear to offend me, for I am extremely wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pity me; The damned Pares on her long legges hath an iron-foot, and I took the nails to have been Letters, on which I looked; she hit me so full on the head, I think my scull is cloben. Dear Uncle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me, believe it, you make me wonder, why I took you for one of the greatest Clarks in this Kingdom: Well, I perceive the old Proverb is now made good in you: The greatest Clarks are not the wisest men. Poor men sometimes my out-strip them in Judgment; and the reason is, you great Schollers, study so much, that you grow dull, in that you so much over-labour. And thus with these mocks and taunts, I brought the Wolf within a halres breath to destruction. And now saie Pephew I have unladed my Conscience, and delivered as many of my sins as I can call to remembrance: wherefore I beseech you let me receive absolution and penance: and then come what charge shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers. Then Grimbard said, your trespasses are great and heinous, nevertheless who is dead, must abide dead. And therefore here I freely absolve you, upon assurance of your hearty repentance: onely the contempt you made in sending him Kywards head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods, will lye heavy upon you. <sup>Whe</sup> (said the Fox) he that will live in the world to see this, or hear that, and understand the third, must ever converse with affliction.

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No man can touch Honey, but he must lick his fingers. I often feel touches of repentance, but reason and our will, are ever in continual combat; so that I oft stand still, as at my wits end: and cry out against my sins, feeling a detestation of them. But presently the world and her vanities appear to me again: and when I find so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelates, and rich Priests to trechaunt me, that I am forthwith taken again: the world fills me with covetousness, and the flesh with wantonness; so that losing my good resolutions, I am onely for Hell and wickedness. I hear their singing, piping, laughing, playing, and all kind of mirth; and I see their words and actions so contrary, that nothing is more uncertain and various: from them I learn my lying, and from Lords Courts my flattery: for certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests, and Clerkes, use most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: and he that cannot dissemble, cannot live. I have oft heard men speak truth, yet they have still grac'd it with falsehood: for untruths many times happen into discourse unwillingly and without knowledge: yet having a handsome garment, it ever goes for current. (Wear Sepherim) It is now a fashion to lye, flatter, sooth, threaten, pray and curse, and to do any thing that may keep the weak in subjection; who do otherwise is held foolish: but he that cannot wimble falsehood, in truths kerchiefe, hath neither Art nor cunning: but he that can do it, and desire error without flammering, he may do wonders; he may wear Scarlet, Gray or Purple: he shall gain both by the Lawes Spirituall and temporall, and write himself conquerour in every designment. There be many that imagine they can be neatly: but their cunning oft failes them: so that when they think to feed of the fat moisselle, they slip quite besides their trenchers. Others blunt and foolish, and for want of method marre all their discourses, but he that can gite to his lie a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without railing, and make it as truth, fair and amiable: What is the man, and worthy of admiration. But to speak truth is  
no

## of Reynard the Fox.

no cunning, it never makes the Devill laugh: to lye well and with a grace: to lift up wrong above right, to make mountains and build Castles in the aire: to make men juggle and look thorow their fingers, and all for hope of gain onely. This Specter, is an Art beyond expression; yet evermore of the end cometh misery and affliction. I will not deny but sometimes men may jest or lye in small things, for he that will speak all truths, shall sometimes speak out of season. To play Placebo, may now and the be boyn with: for who so speaks all ways truth, shall finde many rubs in his way: men may erre for need, and mend it by counsell, since no trespass but hath his mercy: nor any wisdom but at sometime buileth. When (saie the Bock) Uncle, you are so wise you cannot fail in any purpose, and I would grow enamored of you: your reasons so far surpass my understanding, that it is no need of your shift; for your self may both play the Priest and confesse: or you know the world in such sort, that it is impossible for any man to halt before you.

With these and such manner of discourses, they held on their journey towards the Court: yet the Foxes heart (for all his fair shew) was sad and heavy; yet countenance behaved it not: but he pass without amazement through all the press of the Court, even till he came to the presence of the King, and the Bock march'd close by his side; saying, Uncle, be not afraid, but be of good cheer, it is courage of whom Fortune is ever enamoured. When (saie the Fox) Nephew, you say true, and your comfort abasis me: and so on he went casting many disdainful countenances on those he lik'd not; or as who would say, Here I am: what is it that the proudest of you dare object against me? he beheld there many of his kin which he knew loved him not, as the Otter, the Bever, and others others which I will name hereafter: and many he saw which loved him. As soon as he was come in the view of the King, he fell down humbly on his knee, and spake as followeth.



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### CHAP. 9.

How Reynard the Fox excused himself before the King, and  
of the Kings answer,

**T**hat distyne power from whom nothing can be hid, save  
my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queen, and give  
the in grace to know who hath right, and who hath wrong, for



## of Reynard the Fox.

here are many false things in the world, and the counte-  
 nance becometh not the heart: which I wish were openly  
 revealed, and that every creatures trespass stood written in  
 his forehead, albeit it cost me the uttermost of my substance.  
 O what you (my sovereign Lord) knew me as nearly as my  
 self, and now I accuse my self early and late, labouring in  
 your service. So which cause surely makes all her  
 complaint against me, striving to thrust me out of your  
 grace and favour. Inasmuch that out of my anguish I must  
 needs cry shame upon them which have so deadly belied me.  
 nevertheless I know that you my Lord, and sovereign  
 Lord, are so excellent in your Judgment, that you will not  
 be carried away with flattery: and therefore I most hum-  
 bly beseech your Majesties, to take into your wisdoms all  
 things according to the right of your Law: for it is Justice  
 I ask for, and desire that he which is found guilty, may  
 feel the weight of his punishment. For believe it or no, and  
 it shall be known before I depart from your Court who I  
 am, that I cannot flatter, but will show my face with an un-  
 blemished forehead.

All they that were in the presence stood amazed, and won-  
 dered when the Fox spake so stoutly. But the King with a  
 state y countenance said: Reynard, I know you are expert in  
 fallacies but now we are now too weak to relieve you. I believe  
 this day will be the last of your glorie and disgrace: for me I  
 will not chide you much, because I intend you shall live but  
 a short time: the love you do bear me, you have shewed to the  
 Coney and the Hawk, and your requital shall be a short life on  
 earth. The ancient saying is, A Fox pass may long to the wa-  
 ter, but in the end comes broken home. And your evils have  
 so long succeeded, that they will now pay you the hazard. At  
 these words Reynard was stricken into a great fear, and  
 with'd himself far away, yet he be-thought himself that now  
 he must bear thozow, what fortune soever came: Where-  
 upon he said (My sovereign Lord the King) it is but  
 Justice that you hear me answer my accusations, for were  
 my faults more hainous then evil, can make them yet equity

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gives the accused leave ever to answer. I have with my counsels done you service in former time, and may no lesse still: I have never started from your Majesty, but walked by your side, when others have gon from your presence: if then my enemies with their slanders shall prevail against me, blame me not to complain. Time hath been it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the old course, for the actions of good servants ought not to be forgotten. I see here divers of my kindred and friends, which now make no valde of me, whom I can approve, go about to deprive you of the best servant you possess. Can your Majesty imagine if I had been guilty in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily have made my appearance even in the throng of mine enemies? Or if it had been to much indiscretion: nor would the liberty I had, been so easily subjected. But heaven be thanked, I know mine innocence, and dare confront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbar first brought me the tidings, I must confess I was halfe distracted with anger; and had I not been in the censure of his Church, I had appeared ere they had left complaining: but that detained me. And I wandered with sorrow on the heath, till I met with my Uncle Martin, the Ape, who farre exceedeth any Priest in Pastoral business, for he hath been Attorney to the Bishop of Camrick any time this nine years: and seeing me in this great agony of heart, he said, Deare Cousen, why are you thus heavy in spirit, and why is your countenance dejected? grief is easie to carry, when the burthen is divided amongst friends: For the nature of a true friend, is to behold and relieve that, which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. Then I answered him, You say true dear Uncle, and the like is my fortune, for sorrow is without cause laid upon me, and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends. As namely the Countie, who came yesterdai to my house as I was saying Martin, saying, he was travelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry and weary: and therefore requested of me some meat, I willingly consented, took him in and gave

## Of Reynard the Fox.

gave him a couple of Manchets, and sweet Butter: For it The Morall.  
was on Wednesday, on which day I never eat flesh. Be,  
sides it was then a fast, by reason the feast of Whitsonside.



The boldness  
of the Fox es  
apperance and  
speech, shewes  
the impudence  
of a desperate  
offender, that  
having no-  
thing but his  
owne boldnes  
to bolster out  
his cause, still  
cries for ju-  
stice; and ear-  
ring not so  
much to ex-  
cute himselfe,  
as to accuse o-  
thers, and by  
digressions &  
extravagant  
speech to bring  
all those into  
disgrace which  
are able to te-  
stifie anything  
against him.  
By the tale of  
the Apes go-  
ing for him to  
Rome, and his  
threatning the  
King, is shew-  
ed, the igno-  
tance and foo-  
lish blindness  
of the old  
times, which  
would thrall  
Kings under  
the Popes  
Curse, and  
make them

was neer. At which time we must have cleaved and prepa-  
red hearts, Et vos estote Parati. Now when he had almost

well

## The pleasant Historie



subject to his  
Commands,  
though they  
were neuer so  
heathenish and  
Diabollicall.  
By his exco-  
municating him of the  
crimes against  
the Coney and  
the Rookes is  
shewed that  
whoever is  
resolved to do  
an ill act, will  
never make  
conscience  
tell a loud Lie,  
nor is he ever  
unprovided  
thereof, be-  
cause they are  
well refreshed himselfe, my youngest sonne Rossell came in,  
and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the  
nature of Children is euen to be eating and craving.) But  
presently the Coney smot Rossell on the mouth that his teeth  
blew into the poore Cools face almost in a twinkling, which  
when as Reynardine (my eldest sonne) beheld: he forth-  
with leapt to the Coney, and caught him by the head, and  
questionlesse had slain him, had I not come to the rescue.  
Which done, I went and gave my sonne correction for his  
fault. But presently Lappell the Coney posses to my Lord  
the King, and informes that I (my selfe) sought meanes to  
murder him. Thus I am accused without cause and brought  
in a cage, that in truth was the best cause to accuse others. But  
not long after came Courbant the Roke flying to my house  
with a sad noise, and demanding what hee asked. Hee an-  
swered: Alas, my wife is dead. I craved the cause, he said:  
A dead hare lying on the heath full of mothes and vermin,  
of which she had eaten so much, that the wormes had gnawed  
her



of Reynard the Fox.

tear-throat in sunder; and without speaking to me any more the garment, which he ever cleaves his knavery with. By the Apes friend is flandered, but it may be it is for my old sinnes, and therefore I bear it with more patience. When said the Ape to me, *Reynard*, you shall go to the Court and disprove their falsehoods. Alas, *Uncle*, quoth I, it cannot be, for the Archdeacon hath put me in the Popes curse, because I gave counsell to the Wolfe to forsake his holy orders. When he complained to one of his unblameable to inquire that strict life, and much fasting: of which As I now much repent me, since he repayed my love with nothing but hatred and malice; and with all the slander he can invent, stiereth his Majestie daily against me; These things (dear *Uncle*) bring me to my wits end, for of necessity I must go to Rome for absolution, and in mine absence, what mischief may happen to my wife and children through the malice of these blaspheamous wretches, my one man guest: whereas on the other part were I free of the Popes curse, then I could go to the Court, and plead mine own cause, and turne their malice into their own bosomes.

When said the Ape, Cousin, cast off your sorrow for I know the way to Rome well, and am experienced in this business, for I am called the Bishops Clerke; therefore I will go with thee, and enter a plea against the Archdeacon, in the sight of his will, bring you from the Pope a well sealed absolution. What, man, I have many great friends that will give me the Summe, and others, *Friend*, *Wait*, *Scath*, and the like, all which will lend unto me; besides I will not go unfurnished of money, for I know Paratresare is a heerd with gifts, and the Wolfe hath no feet to walke on but money: a true friend is tried in necessity, and you shall finde me without doubting: therefore cast off your griefe, and go to the Court as soon as you can, for I will presently touch his ass in the meane while, here I quit you of all your sinnes and offences, and answere them upon my selfe: when you come to the

Rome, as *Simon* *Prent* your or take ill, and *Wait* *Scath* or *don* *seife*, is shewed the wickedness of these days in Rome, and how by much means a man might purchase any thing he want about. By his informing with the Apes wife (who was then a great favorite about the Queen) is all shewed the art of a subtil head, that will give himselfe a strong party, will not spare any false invention, for a good gainst those that care not for the interior of their lips. By the slight of the Courtier, it is shewed how



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soon the weak are terrified & danc'd with the threatnings of the strong and mighty, that is is better to sit down with wrong, then to contend with one that holdeth too strong a parray. And also how by such advantage the offender takes heart, & thereon grounds the strength of his greater innocence. By the Lyons last accusations and the Foxes direction, is shewed, that when truth & authority stand up against the wicked, that then studying with his owne conscience, he is able to abide no longer, but with silence and downe-cast look, he shews plainly the guile which lies within him.

Court you shall finde there Dame Rukenaw my wife, her two sisters, and my three children, with others of ours of our family. I pray you salute them from me, and shew them mine occasions: my wife is exceeding wise, and she shall finde that her distressed friends shall not shinke when I call help them. I know she is faithfull, and as behotes her, will never leaue her friend in danger. At the uttermost, if your oppression be more then you can beare, send presently to me to Rome, and not an enemy that you have, be it King or Queene, or Subject, even from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently put them in the Popes curse, and send back such an Interdiction, that no holy or sacred duty shall be performed till you have right and Justice restored you.

This assure your selfe I can easily performe, for his Holiness is very old, and little regarded; onely now Cardinall Pare-gold beareth all the sway in the Country, as being young, and rich in many friends: besides, he hath a Concubine: of whome he is farre enamoured; that he denies nothing she demandeth: his Lady is my Sister, and will doe whatsoever I request her: therefore Cousin, goe boldly to the King, and charge him to do you Justice, which I know hee will, since he understands the Lawes are made for the use of all men.

This my Sovereigne Lord the King when I heard him speak, I smil'd, and with great joy came hither to relate unto you the truth: that can charge me with any Creature within this Court, that can charge me with any trespass whatsoever, and prove it by testimony, as the Law requireth, or if otherwise, he will oppose himselfe against me, person to person, grant me but a day, and equall lists, and in combat I will maintaine my innocency against him: provided he be equal to me in birth and degree: this Law hath ever hitherto stood constant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now be broken.

When all the assembly of Beasts heard this, they were dumbe, and amazed to behold his stoutnesse. As for the Coney and the Rooks, they were so scared they durst not speake, but privately

## Of Reynard the Fox,



privately stole away out of the Court, and being farr on the plaine, they said, This devellish murtherer hath such Art in his falshood, that no truth can lōk with better countenance, which onely our selves know, but have no other witness, therefore it is better we depart, then try combat with him, which is so much too strong for us, and so away they went.

Ilegrim the Wolfe, and Bruine the Beare, were very sad when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the King said, If any will appeale the Fox, let him come forth, and he shall be heard: Yesterday wee were laden with complaints, where are they to day? Here is the Fox ready to answer. When said the Fox, My soveraign Lord, absence makes impudent accusers bold, when presence daunts them, as your Highness may see both by the Coney and the Rooke: What it is to trust the malice of these Cowards! and how soon they may confound good men: but for me it matters not: nevertheless had they (at your Majesties commandment) but askt me forgiveness, I had quickly cast all their offences behind

## The pleasant Historie

behind me, for I will neuer make bands with charitie, nor  
 ever hate, or commaund mine enemies: my revenge I leave  
 to heaven, and Justice to your God: And then said the King  
 Reynard, you speake well, if the inward heart be like the out-  
 ward shew, yet I fear your griefe is not such, as you repaire  
 it: At last furthest, he said the Fox: No, quoth the King,  
 for I must waite on with one soule treason, which is,  
 when I had promised all your great transgressions, and you  
 had promised me to go a pilgrimage to the holy Land: when  
 I had furnished you with a mule, with staffe, and all things fit-  
 ting that help order, then in the greatest despite you sent me  
 back in the mule by himselfe, the Taur, the head of a Bear, and the  
 Ware, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour,  
 that no treason can be fouler. This you have no colour to de-  
 ny, for Belphe (our Chaplain) at his death revealed the whole  
 process, and the same reward which he then gained, the same  
 you shall receive, or else right shall sail me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so fere afraid, that he knew  
 not what to say, but looked with a pitifull countenance upon  
 all his kindred which stood round about him; his colour went  
 red, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand  
 or foot to helpe him: then the King said, Thou dissembling  
 and false Traytor, why art thou now so dumbe? But the Fox  
 being full of anguish, fetch a sigh as if his heart would have  
 broke; so that every beast pitied him, save onely the Bear and  
 the Wolf, which rejoyced to see his sorrow.

### CHAP. 20.

How Dame Rukewaw answered for the Fox to the King,  
 and of the Parable she told him.

**D**AME Rukewaw the She-Ape (being Aunt unto Reynard,  
 and a great favorite of the Queens) was much grieved  
 when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox  
 that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and  
 durst boldly speak: and therefore rising up (after reverence  
 done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be posses-  
 sed with

## Of Reynard the Fox.



With anger when you sit in judgment, for it becommeth not  
 Nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should  
 onely accompany you in that season: for mine owne part I  
 thinke I know the Lawes as well as some which wear furred  
 Gownes, for for I read many, and put some in use: It is  
 well knowne, I had ever in the Popes palace a bed of straw,

R

when

## The Pleasant History

### *The Morall.*

By the shee  
Apes answer-  
ing for the  
Fox, is shew-  
ed how apt  
weak women  
are to be flat-  
tered into any  
belief, in  
which they  
may either  
expresse their  
pitty, or gain  
glory. Also it  
shews the veri-  
fying of the  
old proverb,  
Thara Friend  
in Court is  
ever with a  
pound in a  
mans purse.  
By the vio-  
lence of her  
defence, is  
shewed, the  
true nature  
of a woman  
that evermore  
turns into ex-  
treames, and  
so thee way  
doe the good  
or evill she in-  
tends, will not  
keep any thing  
co:cealed  
wich may any  
way work for  
her purpose,  
nor yet any  
thing unargued

when other Beasts lay on the bare ground, & I was ever suf-  
fered to speak freely without interruption, because I talked  
not beyond my experience. It is Senecas opinion, that Prin-  
ces are bound to do Justice to all men, nor may the law be  
or halt with any partiality. I doe not thinke but If every  
man which standeth here should call to account all the actions  
of his life, he could not chuse but pittie much the estat: of my  
poore kinsman Reynard, & therefore I wish every one to know  
himselfe, for none so sure but they may fall, and for him that  
never erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment; Who doe  
amisse and mend it by counsel, is humane and manly: but  
to trespassse and still gallop forward in iniquitie, is devilish  
and unsufferable: the holy Booke saith, Be mercifull and judge  
not, least you be judged. And in another place when the Pha-  
rises brought a woman taken in adultery, and would have  
stoned her to death, asked our Lord what he said thereto: he  
Answered: Which of you all is without sinne: let him cast  
the first stone: But they all departed and left her: In mine  
opinion it is so here to day, for here be many that find straws  
in other eyes but see not the beames in their own: he that fal-  
leth off, and in the end ariseth and cometh to mercy, cannot  
he say to be damned: goodnesse never forsaketh her owne  
servants. This counsel, would some take to their hearts,  
the day would not appear so darke as it doth to my Cousin  
Reynard. It is well known that both his Grand-father and  
Father ever bare greater reputation in this Court, then ei-  
ther Bruine or Negrim, or their whole generation. Alas,  
when have their counsels or wisdomes been worthy to  
have held comparison with those of my cousin Reynards: why,  
the passages of the World are to them Prophecies, which they  
understand not, and the Court is turned topsie turvy by his  
absence: the evill are now advanced, and the good suppressed:  
but how this can long indure I see not, since the end of their  
labour is but the ruine of your estate.

To this speech the King made his answer: Dame, had the  
for done that offence to you, he hath done to others, your ex-  
cuse would couch in another nature, you cannot blame me to  
hate



## of Reynard the Fox.

hate him, since it is onely he which breaketh my laws & co-  
 venants: you have heard him accused of theft, murther and  
 treason, how can you then defend him: if you will needs make  
 him your Saint, then set him upon the Altar, and do him ino-  
 cency, but believe it there is no one good thing in him: and how  
 ever you imagine, yet search him, and you shall find him rot-  
 ten and deformed, there is neither kinsman nor friend (but  
 your self) that will assist him, and therefore your violence  
 draws my greater wonder. What companion hath he that  
 ever thrived by his society, or whom hath he smil'd on, that  
 his fall hath not after dash't out the eye of.

To this the She-Ape replied: My Lord, I love him, and  
 have ever boyn him a singular reverence, and I can well re-  
 count one noble and good action he did in your presence: for  
 which then you thanked him, though now forgotten: yet the  
 heaviest thing should ever weigh the most, and men should  
 keep a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor love with  
 violence, since constancie is the greatest ornament of a Prince-  
 ly nature. We should not praise the day til the evening come,  
 nor is good counsel available, but to those which mean to  
 pursue it.

I remember about some two years since, there came to  
 this court a man and a serpent to have judgment in a doubt-  
 ful controvercie: For the Serpent attempting to go through  
 a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare so that there was  
 no way to escape with life: A certain man passing by, the  
 Serpent called and cried unto him, and desired his help, or  
 else he should perish presently. The man taking pittie of him  
 (said) If thou wilt faithfully promise me neither to do mee  
 hurt with thy tooth or tail, or other poison about thee, I will  
 release thee. The Serpent presently swore he would not,  
 neither at that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man un-  
 loos'd him, and set him free, and they went forth and travel-  
 led together a long season.

At the last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, & rushing  
 upon the man, offered to kill him: but the man started aside,  
 and said; What meane'st thou to do? hast thou forgotten



## The Pleasant History



thine oath, the Serpent replied no: but I may justly kill thee  
 since I am compelled thereto by hunger, which cancelleth all  
 obligations. Then the man said, if it be so, yet give me leave to  
 live till we may meet with the next passenger, which may  
 judge the controversie.

The Serpent agreed thereto; so they travelled till they met  
 with

## Of Reynard the Fox.

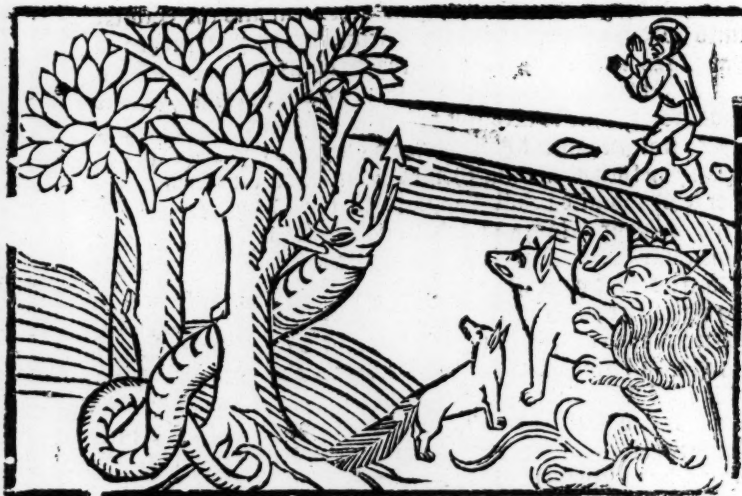
with Tisellia the Raven, and Slinopere his Sonne: to whom relating the difference, the Raven adjudged that the Serpent should eat the man, hoping that he and his son should get a share also. But the man said, How shall he that is a robber, and lives by blood, judge this cause? it must not be one but others, and such as know both Law and equity, that must judge this contention: the Raven is neither just, nor indifferent.

When they travelled till they met the Bear and the Wolfe, unto whom also they told the matter, and they adjudged against the man likewise. When the Serpent began to cast his venom, at the man, but the man leaped away, and said, You do me wrong, thus to attempt to kill me: and the Serpent said, Hath not Judgment gone twice on my side? Yes (said the Man) by such as are murderers themselves, and such as never kept promise: but I appeal to the Court, let mee be tried by your King, and what judgment he giveth, I will willingly abide. To this all consented: So they came to the Court before your Majesty, and the Wolfes two children came with their Father, the one was call Emptie-Belly, the other Navel-full, because they sought to devour the Man. So the full proceſſe of the matter was declared to your Majesty: But the Mans kindnesse and covenant, the Serpents danger and faith-breach, occasioned through the extremitie of hunger. Remember how much your Highnes was perplexed with their difference, and all your Counsell also: For the Mans sorrow, the Serpents hunger: the Mans goodness, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raiseth much pittie in your bosome. But in the end such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to judge it. At the last, when no helpe could be found, then you commaunded my kinsman Reynard to decide the businesse: then was he Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing received, but what he propounded: But he told your Majesty it was impossible to give true Judgment according to their relations, but if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatnesse of his danger, then he knew wel how to give Judgment therein.

## The pleasant History

therein. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approving that to be done which he had spoken.

Then went the man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snar'd, and Reynard, commanded the Serpent to be fastned as before in the snickle, which being done, then said your Majestie, Reynard what Judgment will you now



give? And he replied, They are now my Lord in the same state they were before at their first encounter, they have neither wonne nor lost: Therefore this is my censure, if it be your Majesties pleasure, If the man will now loose and unbind the Serpent, upon the same promise and oath made formerly unto him, hee may at his pleasure: But if he think that hunger or other inconvenience will make him break his Faith, then may the man go freely whither hee will, and leave the Serpent bound and inthrailed as he first found him: for it is fit that ingratitude be so repaid. This Judge-  
ment

## of Reynard the Fox.

ment your Maiestie then applauded for the most excellent, & held the wisdom of the Fox unlimitable, tearming him the preserver of your Honour. When did ever the Bear or Woolf the like? they can howle or scold, steale, robb, and eat fat mousel, make their guts crack with others ruines: and condemne him to death which takes a Chickin: but them selves which kill haine, Deer, and Horses: & they goe safe, and be accounted as wise as Solomon, Avicen, or Aristotle, and their deeds and Statutes must be read for monuments. But if they come where vertus is to be exercised, they are the first which retreat and let the simple goe for most, whilst they follow in the retreat, with shame and cowardise. These (my Lord, and their like, are the fools of these corrupt times yet destroy Towns, Castles, Lands and People: nor care they whose house burneth, so they may warme them by the fire: for it is their profit onely at which their ayme bendeth. But Reynard the Fox, and all his Family, have ever made the honour of the King their renown and advancement, and applied their counsel to do him service, not pride and boasting: this hath been and is his exercise, though it now be thanklesse. But time I hope will produce whose merit is great: For your Maiestie, says his kindred is fallen from him and start at his fortune: would any but your Highnesse had affirmed it, you should then have seen, there could not be a thing of greater falsehood: But your grace may say your pleasure, nor will I in any word appose you: for to him that so durst doe, would both he and we bend our forces. It is known we dare fight, nor are we descended of any base generation: Your Highnesse may call to mind the worth of our Pedegree, and how dearly from time to time they have respected him, willing ever to lay down their liues & goods for the safety of their noble kinsman Reynard, For mine own part I am one my selfe, and albeit I am the Wife of another, yet for him I would not sticke to spend my dearest blood. Besides, I have three full grown Children, which are known valiant and strong in arms, yet for his sake I would adventure them all to the uttermost perill. Albeit I love them with that deare affection that no Mother

## The Pleasant History

ther doth exceed me: my first sonne is called Bicelas which is most active and nimble, my second Fulrump, the third is a daughter called Haranet, a fille that can look a mans head, and picke out lice more rimbly then all the combs in Christsendome: and these three are loving and deare to one another: and with that she called them forth unto her, and said



Come my deare children, and stand with your kinsman the Noble Reynard, and with you come all the rest of our ancient family, and be all petitioners to the King, that hee will doe to Reynard the equitie of his Lawes and Kingdome. Then presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirrel, and the Ferret: for these love Pullen as well as Reynard doth: Then came the Otter and Pentecote his wife, which I had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Bear against the Fox, but now they dare not but obey Dame Rokenaw, for they stood in awe of her wisdom and greatness: and with these came above twenty  
ether

## Of Reynard the Fox.

her beasts for her sake, and stood by Reynard. Then came also dame Arois and her two sisters, the weasel and Hermel the Mice, the Weasel, the water-Cat, and many others, to the number almost of an hundred, and stood by Reynard with such affection, as if his trouble did equally concern them. Then said the three-Ape, My Lord the King, now you may see that my kinsman hath friends which dare avow him, and we are your true and loyal Subjects, which will never fail to do you faithful service. Therefore let us with one voice beg of your Majesty, that Reynard may have Justice, and if he be not able to disprove his adversary, and clear the crimes imputed against him, let the Law passe, for wee will not murmur to see his destruction.

Then said the Queen to Rakenaw: Thus much I told unto his Majesty yesterday, but his anger was so great, he would not give ear to me. Also the Liberd said, Sir, you must iudge according to witness: for to be governed by will is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, It is true you say so in me; but the disgrace done to my particular self in Kyward's death, and others informations robb'd me of patience, that I had no leisure to look back either to Law, or reason: Therefore now let the Fox speak bold'y, and if he can justify against himself of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his dear friends sake, whom I have ever found faithful and loyal.

How infinitely glad was the Fox when he heard these words, and said in himself, Thanks my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put me new blossoms on my dry'd Roses, and set me in a safe path to libertie. I have one good thing to dance on: and I doubt not but to use my Art of dissimulation so bravely, that this day shall be remembred for my renown and glory.



## The pleasant Historie

### CHAP. 21.

How Reynard excused himself of Kaywards death, and all other imputations; got the Kirgs favour, and made relation of certain Jewels.



**T**hen spake Reynard the Fox to the King, and said; Alas my sovereign Lord, what is that you say? Is good Kayward the Ware dead? Where is then Bellin the Ram, or what did he bring to your Majestie at his return? For it is certain I delivered him three rich and inestimable Jewels, I would not for the wealth of India they should bee detained from you: the chief of them I directed to you my Lord the King, the other two to my sovereign Lady the Queen. But (said the King) I received nothing but the Head of poor murdered Kayward, for which I executed the Ram, having confest the deed to be done by his advice and counsel. Is this truth (said the Fox), then woe is me that ever I was born,

## of Reynard the Fox.

born, for there are lost the goodliest Jewels that ever were in the possession of any Prince living: would I had died when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of my life, nor will she ever henceforth esteem me. When said the She-Ape: Dear Nephew, why should you sorrow thus for transitory wealth? Let them go, onely discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall finde them again: If not, the Magician M. Alkarin shall labour his wits, and search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whosoever deteins them, shall be cursd in all Parishes, till he restore them to the Kings Majestie. O Aunt (said the Fox) do not perswade your self so, for whosoever hath them will not restore them to gain an Empire, they are so goodly and precious: yet your words do something appease me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt age, when even sanctitie it self walks maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deep sigh, with which he guiled his dissimulation, he proceeded on and said, Hearken all you of my stock and lineage, for I will here discover what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed I intended to his majestie) was a Ring of fine and pure gold, and within this Ring next the finger, were engraven Letters enamelled with Azure and Sable, containing three Hebrew names. For my own part I could neither read nor spell them, but M. Abrion of Trere, the excellent linguist, who knoweth the nature of all manner of Herbs, Beasts, and Minerals, to this famous Jew I shewed the Ring once, and he assured me, that they were those three Names which Serh brought out of Paradise, when he brought to his Father Adam the Opt of Parise. And whosoever shall wear these three Names about him, shall never be hurt by Thunder or Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft have power over him: Hee shall not bee tempted to do any sinne, neither shall heat or cold ever annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was encast a most precious Stone of three several colours; The first lik red Chrystal, and glittering like fire, and that with lush brightness, that if one had occasion to journey by night,

## The Pleasant History

### *The Moral.*

By the relation which the Fox made of the Jewels, and their several virtues and riches, is shewed the policy of the wicked, which are ever prepared of those baits which they know will soonest catch the minds of them they are to intangle. as wealth health, honour & virtue, all which be lodged in those Jewels. As for the stories contained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himself, shewing in them severally, the imputations he would have the Lion know to be in his enemies, & such examples are ever more bitter, and work more in the minds or the hearts, then any vio-



the light thereof was so great as that at Noon-day. The other colour was white and clear, as if it had been burnished; and the virtue of it was to cure any blemish, or soresness in the skin, or any part of the body: Also (by stroking the place affected therewithall) it presently cured all manner of swellings, head-ache, or any sickness whatsoever: Whether it were

## of Reynard the Fox.

were venome, weaknesse of stomach, chollick, stone, strangury, Fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as afoze, shewed, or inwardly by steeping the stone in water, and then drinking the same. The last colour was green like grasse mixt with a few small spots of purple: and the learned affirmed for truth, that whosoever wears this stone about him, could never be vanquish't by his enemies; and that no creature, were he never so strong and hardy, but would yield unto him, and he should be victor day and night in all places. Again, as for as one boze it fasting, into what company soever he chanced (and be his worst enemies) yet should he be of them infinitely beloved: nor should any anger or ill turn be remembered: Also if one should be naked in a vast wild field, against an hundred armed enemies, yet should not his heart fail him, but he should come off with honor and victorie: onely he must be nobly bred, and of a churlish disposition; for the King gave no virtue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now all these virtues considered, I thought my self unworthy to keep it: and therefore I sent it to you my Lord the King, knowing you to be the excellent of all creatures living, and one on whom all our lyes depend, and therefore fittest to be guarded with so rich a Jewel.

This Ring I found in my Fathers treasure, and in the same place also I found a Combe, and a glasse-Spirour, which my Wife desired of me: they were Jewels of great wonder, and admiration: these were sent to my Lasse the Queen, because of her grace and mercie extended towards me: To speak of the Combe; it can never be too much praised, for it was made of the bone of a noble beast named Panchera, which liveth between the greater India and earthly Paradise: he is so goodly and fair of colour, that there is no beautiful colour under heaven but some splendor thereof appears in him: also the smell of him is so delicately sweet and wholesome, that the very savour cureth all infirmities, and for his excellent beauty and rare orour, all other beasts attend and follow him, for he is the Physician to all their sicknesses. When Panchera hath one fair bone broken and thin, which whosoever this beast is slain,

## The pleasant Historie

that, all the virtues of the whole Beast do rest in that bone,  
which can never be broken, neither ever rot, consume or perish,



either by fire, water, or other violence: yet it is so light, a small feather may poise it: the smell of it hath that virtue, that whosoever sends it, taketh delight in no other smell whatso-  
ever, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases  
and infirmities; and the heart is chearful and merry ever  
after.

Thiscombe is polished like unto fine silver, and the teeth  
of it be small and straight, and between the great teeth and  
the small, in a large field or space, there is graven many an  
Image subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with  
fine gold: the field is checked with Sables and Silver, and  
enamelled with Cybor and Azure: and therein is contained  
the story how Venus, Juno, and Pallas strove for the golden Ball  
in the mountain Ida, and how it was put to Paris, to give it to  
the fairest of them.

Paris at that time was a Shepherd, and kept his Flocks  
with

## of Reynard the Fox.

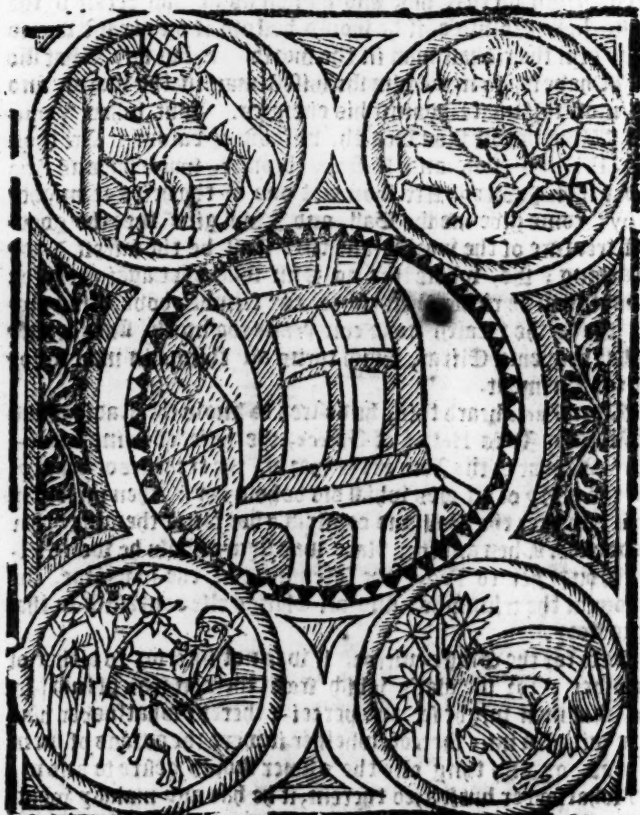
With Oenon on that hill, and as soon as he had receiv'd the Ball, Juno promis'd, if he would bestow it on her she would make him the richest man in the world. Pallas said, What she might have it, to make him the wisest man in the world, and the most fortunate against his enemies. But when Venus said, What needst thou wealth, wisdome or valour? Art thou not Priamus son, and Hectors brother, which have all Asia under their power? Art thou not one of the heirs of mighty Troy? come give me the Ball, and I will give thee the goodliest treasure of the world, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing; she, whose like no Sun shall ever again behold: so shalt thou be richer then riches, and climbe above all in glory: that's the wealth none can prasse too much, since beauty is that heavenly Elixir, which turns all things in man to joy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Ladie; and Venus said, It is Hellen of Greece, the wife of King Menelaus: she that is the Gem of the world, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which doe behold her: then presently Paris gave her the Ball, and confirm'd her fairer then the other Goddesses. When another place was figured how he won Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnitie at the marriage, the honour at the triumphs, and all things else contain'd in that large Story.

Now for the Glasse-mirror, it was not inferior to either of the other: for the glasse which stood thereon was of such stature, that men might see and perceive therein whatsoever was done within a mile thereof, whether it were the actions of men, or beasts, or any thing else the owner should desire to know, and whatsoever busied therein, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the virtues of this rare Glasse, that wonder not if I shed tears to think of the losse: for the wood in which this glasse stood, was light and fast, and is called Oacine, it will last ever: for worms, dust, wet, nor time can consume it: and therefore King Solomon filled his Temple with the same: the value exceeds far the value of gold, it is like to the wood Habenus, of which King  
Crampart



# The Pleasant History



Crampart made a Horse, for the love of the most beautiful  
daughter of King Morcadiges. This Horse was made with  
such Art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased, he  
would run abroad an hundred miles in less then an hour,  
which was approved by Clamades the Kings son, who not  
believing in the Engine, & being young and lustie, leapt upon  
the

## of Reynard the Fox.

the Horse, and present y Crampart turning a pin that stood in the brest of the Engine, moved, and went out of the Palace through the windows, and in the first minute he was gone at least ten mile. Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder and imagined (as the storie said) that he should never have returned back again: but of his long journey, much fear, great trouble, and infinite joy, when he had learned to manage and govern the wooden beast. I leate to speak for tediousness sake, onely the high virtue of all issued from the wood.

Of this wood the Glasse-case was made, being larger then the Glasse by half a foot and moze square, upon which verge was decyphred divers many strange Histories, in Gold, in Silver, in Sables, Yellow, Azure and Cynops: and these colours were very curiously wrought and interlaid together, and under each History the words so engraven and enamelled, that any man might read the whole Story: belibe it, the world never produced a thing of a greater worth, lustre, or pleasure. In the upper part thereof stood a Horse in his naturall glory, fat, fair, and fiery, which braved a stately Hart which ran before him: but seeing he could not overtake this Hart in swiftness, at which he infinitely disoained, he went to a Heardsman standing by, and told him, if he would help him to take a Hart which he would shew him, he should have all the profit of the conquest, as the harness, skin, and flesh: When the Heardsman asked him what meanes he should use to get him: the Horse said, mount upon my back, and I will bear thee after him, till with tiring we take him. The heardsman took his offer, and bestriding the Horse, followed the Deer: but he fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, that with much labour the Horse grew weary, and he bade the Heardsman light, for he would rest himself awhile. But the Heardsman said; I have a bridle on thy head, and spurs on my heels, therefore know thou art now my servant, neither will I part with thee, but govern thee as seems best to my pleasure. Thus the Horse brought himself into thaloms, and was taken in his own net for no creature

## The Pleasant History

hath a greater adversary then his own envy, and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall upon their own ruines.

In another part was figured an Asse and an Hound, which were both the servants of a rich man. This man loved his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the dog to fawn and leap upon him, and now and then to lick him about the mouth. Now when Baldwin the Asse saw this, he began to envy the Hound, and said, What sees my Master in this foul Hound, that he suffers him thus to leap upon him, and kisse him? I see no profitable service he doth him. I labour, beat and drab, and do more service in one week, then the dog and his whole kind are able to do in a year, and yet hate I not the tythe of his labours: for he sitteth by his trencher, eats the fat of his meat, and lies on Carpets and pillows: when I that do all, am fed onely with Patties and Whiffles: well I will no longer indure it, but I will strive to have my Lords favour as much as the Hound if not in greater measure. Anon the Master of the house came home, and the Asse lifting up his tail, leapt with his forefeet on his shoulders, and baying and grinsing, and put forth his mouth to kisse him, and used such rude unmanerly actions, that he rub'd all the skin from his Masters eares, and almost overthrew him: so that the man was forced to cry out help, help, for this Asse will kill me. Then came in his servants with staves, and beat the Asse so exceedingly, that he was almost slain: which done, he returned to his stall again: and was an Asse as he was before. In the same manner, they which do envy and spight at others welfare, if they receive the same reward, it is nothing more then is due to their merit: for an Asse is an Asse, and was born to eat Whiffles: and where Asses govern, there order is never observed, for they have no eye either on this side, or beyond their own private profit: yet sometimes they are advanced, the more is the pity.

In another part was figured the story, how my Father and Gybert the Cat travailed together, and had swoyn by their troath

## of Reynard the Fox.

troath, that neither for love nor hate they would depart one from the other: but it happened on a time, they saw Hunters coming over the fields with a Kennell of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their lives were in danger, When said the Fox, Tybert, whither shall we lie: for the Hunters have espied us: for mine own part I have a thousand wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together, we shall not need to fear them. But the Cat began to sigh, and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what needs many words? I have but one wile, and that must help me, and forthwith he clambered up to the top of a high Tree, where he lurk'd among the leaves, that neither Huntsman nor Hounds could hurt him, and left my Father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole Kennell pursued him, hoys and halloes echoing after him: kill the Fox, kill the Fox.

Whis when Tybert saw, he mocked my Father: and said: Now Cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles for if your wit fail you I fear your whole body will perish. Whis my Father hearing from him he most trusted, and being then in the height of pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himself so much lighter, yet all abated not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance espied a hole, into which he entred, and escap'd the Hounds and Huntsmen. Thus you may see the false faith of the Cat, whose like there be many living at this time, and though this might well excuse me from loving the Cat, yet my soules health and charity binds me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall never be grateful to me: not so much for hatred, as the remembrance of his injuries, which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Apocrypha stands another History of the Wolf, how on a time he found upon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was faine to gnaw and devour the bones, which he did with such greediness, that swallowing them too hastily down, one fell so crosse his throat, that he was almost choak'd, and hardly escap'd with life: whereupon

## The pleasant Historie

he sought every place for the cunningest & Surginges promising the n great gifts to ease his torments: but having lost much labour, in the end he met with the Crane, and besought him with his long neck and bill to help him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gain, put in his head into the Wolls throat, and brought out the Bone. The Woll started at the pain, and cried out aloud, thou hurt'st me, but I do forgive thee, yet do it not again I charge thee, for at anothers hands, I would not bear it: then the Crane said: Sir Ilegrim, go and be frolick, for you are whole, I look for no more but the reward you promised me: How (said the Woll) what impudence is this? I suffer and have cause to complain, yet he will be rewarded, hee will not so much as thank me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out again without hurting, albeit hee put me to exceeding much pain: I suppose it is I which deserve the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ingratefull men in these days, how ever they reward good with evill: for where as pride is exalted, there honour is ever laid in the dust. There be a world which ought to reward, and do good to those that have advanc'd them, which now complain, and make those advancements injuriet, but the garrison will follow: for it is the wisest counsell, that whosoever will go about to chastise another, should ever be sure of his own cleareness. All this, and a world more then I can well remember, was cunningly wrought on this Glass: for the work-maister thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clark in all Sciences that ever breathed. And because the Jewels were so good and precious for me to keep, therefore I sent them to the King & Queens Majesties as a present, to witness my faith and service: & hee that had seen what sorrows my Children made when I sent the Glass away! would have wondered, for by reason of the great vertue therein, they oft gazed in the same; both to behold themselves, and to see how these cloathing and apparell became them.

A little



## of Reynard the Fox.

Little did I then imagine that god Kyward was so nere his death, for then but himself, and Bellin the Ram, I knew no messenger worthy to carry so rich a present. But I will search the whole world, but I will find the murderer, for murder cannot be hid. It may be he is in this presence which knows what is become of Kyward, albeit he do conceal it; for many devils walk like Saints. Yet the greatest wonder of all is (which troubled me most,) that my Lord the King should say, that my Father, nor my self, ever did good. But the troubles of affaires may well breed forgetfulness in Kings, otherwise your Majesty might call to mind how when the King your Father lived, and you were a Prince not above two yeares old: My Father came from the School at Mounpelior, where he had studied five yeares the Art of Physick, and was expert in all the principles thereof; and so famous in those days, that he wore cloathes of Silk, and a Golden Circle. Now when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little grief unto him, for he loved the King most dearly) and the King rejoiced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walk whither they would, one y hee must ever be nere him. Then said your Father, Reynard I am exceeding sick, and I feel my sickness increasing. My Father answered; my Lord, here is a Urinall, make water therein, and as soon as I behold your state, I will give mine opinion. The King did as he was advised (for he trusted not any equall with him.) Then said my Father, My best Lord, if you will be eased of your grief, you must needs eat the Liquor of a Wolf of seven yeares old, or else your disease is incurable.

The Wolf at that time stood by your Father, but said nothing: whereupon the King said, Sir Hegrim, you heare how there is nothing which can cure me but your Liquor. The Wolf replied: not so my Lord, for I am not yet full five yeares old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Liquor, I will tell you if it be medicinable: When was the Wolf carried to the Lit-



## The Pleasant History

thin, and his Liquor taken out, which the King did eat, & was presently cured of his sickness. When the King thanked my Father and commanded all his Subjects on pain of death, from thenceforth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walking by his side, and was trusted in all things and the King gave him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses, which he must ever wear upon his head. But these remembrances are all lost and gone, and his enemies are now more advanced, vertue is put back, and Innocence lies in sorrow: for when baseness and covetousness are made Commanders, they neither know themselves, nor look at the lowliness from whence they are risen. They have no hearts for pity, nor ears for any mans cause. Gold is the god they run to, and gifts the god which they worship. What great mans Gate doth not look upon Covetousness? where is not flattery entertained, and what Prince takes hate at his own praises? But should greatness need their honest service, well might they starve ere they could gain that employment: For like Wolves, they had rather see their Masters dye, then lend them the least part of their Liquor.

This my Lord was an accident which fell in your youth, and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I myself may say, I have done to you both honour and service, and you haply also forget this which I shall repeat, which I now I do not to upbraid your Majesty, for you are ever worthy of more then I can tender, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyall Subject, which I am ever bound by the lawes of God and nature to perform.

So it was, that on a time Isegrim the Wolf, and I had gotten a Sowne under us, and by reason of his extreame lowing crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your self came out of a Grove unto us, and saluted us friendly, saying: That you and the Queen your wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry, and intreated us to give you part of our getting: Isegrim then whispered in such manner, that none could understand him, but I spake out aloud: With all my heart my Lord, and were it better then  
it

## Of Reynard the Fox.

it is, it were to mean for your service. But Isegrim according to his wont departed grumbling, and took half of the Swine, giving you and the Den but one part quarter, the other he himself unmannerly devoured, and left me for my share but part half of the Lungs. When your Majesty had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolf would deliver none: so that you reach'd him a blow with your fist, which tore all the skin from about his eares, so that he ran away crying and howling with extremity. But you Majesty commanded him to return again speedily, and bring you more meat, but he went away grumbling. When I besought your Majesty, that I might go with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his eares dropping blood all the way as he went: In the end we took a Calf, and when your Majesty saw us bring it, you laughed, and said to me, I was a swift Huntsman, and could find my game quickly, and therefore I was fit to serve in time of necessity: When you bade me to divide it, and I did it, and gave one half thereof to your Majesty, the other half to the Maiden: As for the Purgets, Liver, Lungs and all the inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the head I gave it to Isegrim the Wolf, and took unto my self but the feet onely. When said your Majesty, ha Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous divisions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Worst which sits here with his bloody pate: for he lost his skin for his too much inequality, and for his covetousness hath reaped nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these days, that would even eat up their best friends and kindred: Say if they had power, even your Majesty also, for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But woe to that Common-wealth where such have the upper hand and government.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this have I done for your Majesty, which were it not for tediousness sake, I could well repeat. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will  
one

## The pleasant Historie

one day again recall them. I have seen the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my advice and consur, though now that Iudgment is not so reputed: yet it may be, the same reputation may spring up again, and be believed as firmly as before, as long as it swerves not from Justice, which is the onely thing I aim at. For if any one can charge me otherwise, and prove it by witness, here I stand to endure the uttermost the Law can inflict upon me: But if malice onely slander me without witness, I crave the combate according to the Law and instance of the Court. Then said the King, Reynard, you say well; nor know I any thing more of Kyward's death, then the bringing of his head unto me by Bel-lin the Ram; therefore of it I here acquit you. My dear Lord (said the Fox) I humbly thank you: yet is his death so grievous unto me, I cannot let it pass so easie: I remember my heart was heavy at his departure, and I was ready to sink to the ground, which was a certain presage of the losse which happened.

These words, and the sad looks of the Fox, so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but believe all that he uttered, so that every one bemoan'd his losse, and pittied his sorrow. But the King and Men were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that he would make diligent search for the finding of them out, for his praises had stricken them far in love with the Jewels. And because he told them, he had sent those Jewels unto them (though they never saw them) yet they gave him as great thanks, as if they had been in their safe possession, and desired him he would be a meane to them might be restored to them again.

## of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 22.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how Isengrim the Wolf complained of him again.

**T**he Fox understood their meaning exceeding well, and though he little meant to perform what they intreated



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yet he thanked the King and Quēn for the comforts they gave him in his great extremitie, vowing not to rest neither night nor day, but to search all the corners of the earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: also intreating his Majestie, that if they should be concealed in such places where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attaine unto them, that then his Highnesse would assist him: both because it was an occasion which concerned him nearly, as also a thing required from his Office, being an Act of perfect Justice, to punish these and murder, both which were contained in this action.

When the King answered him, that so soon as it should be known where they were, no help or assistance should be wanting. The Fox gave the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his false tale and flatterie, had so fastened the King unto him, that now he might go freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complain upon him: onely Legrim the Wolf stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to contain his anger any longer; he said, O my Lord the King! is it possible your Majestie should be so much foolish or weak of belief, as to fix your trust upon the falshood of this ever-deceiving merchant, which hath nothing but Madows and Chymera's wherewith to enchant you? O be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch all covered and besmeared with murder and treason, and even to your own face hath made a scroffe of your Majestie. For my own part I am glad hee is here in your Presence, and I intend to ring him such a peal of contray nature, that all the lies he can invent, shall not bear him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord) that this dissembling and false Traitor not long since did betray my wife most shamefully: for it hapned upon a Winters day, that they two travell'd together through a very great water, and he perswaded my wife that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her tail, by letting it hang angle-wise in the water a  
good

## of Reynard the Fox.

good while : whereunto he said, there would so much fish instantly cleave, that half a dozen of them should not be able to



devour it. The silly fool my wife (supposing all to be truth which comes from him) went presently into the mire up to the belly before she came to the water; and coming into the



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depth of the water (as he directed her) she held her tail down  
 still in the water, expecting when there the fish should cleave  
 to: but the weather being sharp and frostie, and the flood  
 there so long, that her tail was frozen hard to the Ice, so that  
 all the force she had was not able to pull it out: but when  
 this lustful villain beheld that, he presently leapt upon her  
 and rashed her, in such beastly and shameful manner, that  
 no modest ear is able to hear the odiousnesse of the action.  
 My poore Wife being disarmed of all resistance, well might she  
 sink, cry, and feed upon the byne of her own tears, but all  
 to no purpose, the deed was done, and the villain triumphed.  
 This no impudence can make him deny, for I came  
 and took him in the action. How much jealousie, grief,  
 and fury assailed me at that instant, I was even distracted to  
 behold them: and cried, Reynard, villain what art thou doing:  
 but he seeing me so near approaching, presently leapt  
 from her and ran his way: So I went unto her with much  
 sorrow and heavinesse, having a world of labour ere I could  
 break the Ice about her: and in despite of all my cunning, yet  
 she was compell'd to leave a piece of her taylor behind her: and  
 indeed we both escaped hardly with our lives. For by reason  
 of the great anguish she endured, she barked so loud, that the  
 people of the next village rose up and came with staves, and  
 bills, with flails and pitch-forks, and the wives with  
 their distaffes; and so fiercely assaulted us; crying, kill, kill,  
 and slay, slay, that I was never in so desperate a taking. One  
 slave among the rest, which was strong, and swift of foot,  
 hurt us sore with a Pike-staffe, and had not the night be-  
 friended us, we had never escaped that danger. From hence  
 we came to a field full of Brooms and Brambles, where  
 we hid us from the fury of our enemies. Thus my Gracious  
 Lord, you have heard how this Traitor and murderer hath  
 used us, and against the same we crave the right of your Law  
 and Justice.

But Reynard answered, and said, If this were true, I con-  
 fesse, it would touch me near in honour and reputation: but  
 God forbid that such a slander should be proved against  
 me:

## of Reynard the Fox.

me. I confesse I taught her to catch fish, and taught her how  
to enter the water, and never touch the mire: but her greed-  
nesse so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that  
she ran without respect of any path or direction; and so  
comming into the Ice, she was there presently frozen, by reason  
of her too long tarrying; for she had more fish then would  
have satisfied twentie reasonable appetites: but it is com-  
monly seen, that who all would have, all foregoe: for covetous-  
nesse seldom bringeth any thing well home: yet when I saw  
her so fastned in the Ice, I used all my best indeatours to  
loosen her, and so indeed was heaving and shoving about her,  
but to little purpose; for by reason of her weight I was not  
able to move her.

*The Moral.*

By the com-  
plaints of the  
Wolf, is shew-  
ed, the envie  
that one ill  
man bears ano-  
ther, and how  
loath they are  
that any of  
their contrary  
faction should  
scape punish-  
ment; and that  
to gain revenge-  
ment, they care  
not what in-  
dignitie they  
do to them-  
selves, as doth  
appear by the  
Wolfs slander-  
ing of his own  
wife.

Now whilst this was in doing came Ilegrim, and seeing  
me so buie about her, Churle-like hee most vilely slandered  
me, like a profane Whittall, which takes delight to bee accun-  
ted a Cuckold: but beleve it, my gracious Lord, all was  
false, and his wife virtuous, for any thing within my know-  
ledge: whome I am perswade, that surely his eye dazzled;  
for indeed he uttered many a grievous curse, and threatned  
much rebengement against me; so that more to eschew his  
blasphemy then fury I went my way, and he came; and with  
as great ado, and as much heave and shove, he helpd her out:  
which done, (they then almost starved with cold) ran and  
skipt up and down the fields to get them heat: and that this  
is all truth which I have spoken, I will willingly be depose-  
d, for I would not be the father of any falshood before your  
Majestie, to be master of many millions: howeuer my fortunes  
go, I respect not, truth is my badge, and hath ever been the  
Ensigne of all my Ancestors; and if there be any scruple  
or doubt made of mine assertion, I aske but eight daies li-  
berty, that I may confer with any learned Counsel, and I ex-  
cuse, is shew-  
ed, how policy  
hath ever an  
evasion, or a  
cloak for any  
evil it doth, &c.

rious.

## The Pleasant History

can colour  
everything with  
a pretence of  
goodness.

The Foxes  
contempt of  
the Wolf,  
shews, that  
the strength or  
politic con-  
sists in dis-  
gracing the ad-  
verse party, and  
calling his  
good name in  
question, by  
which means  
he may lose his  
life and credit.  
By the she-  
Wolfs falling  
into the Well.

rious villain; false both to heaven and to your Majestie, and  
now his own words witness him a base flanderer of women:  
therefore I refer my self to the trial of his wife: if she accuse  
me, let the world hold me guilty; provided she may be made  
free from her husband, whose tyranny will compell her to say  
any thing, though never so unjustly.

At this, forth stept dame Arsewinde the Wollfs wife, and  
said; O Reynard, thou hast so oyle a smooth tongue, and so  
deft in flattery, that no man is safe from thine enchantment:  
it is not once, but oft thou hast deceived me; remember but  
how thou didst use me at the Well with two buckets: which  
hanging at one cord, and running through one pulley; which  
ever as one went down, the other went up: I remember  
how thou getting into one of them, cast it down to the bottom  
of the Well, and there wast in great danger and perill, so that  
I ran thither with great haste, and heard thee sigh and make  
great moene: then asking thee how thou camest there; and thou  
answerdest me, that thou wert there a fishing; and hast so



much

## Of Reynard the Fox.

much fish, of which thou hast eaten so many, that thy belly shewes the effects of covetousness, which might come to thee; and thou sayst, Aunt, leap into that bucket which hangeth there, and thou wilt be presently with me: which I no sooner did, but (being much heavier then thyself) I fell presently to the bottom of the Well, and thou camest up to the top: at which when I seemed to be angry, thou saidst; Aunt, this is but the fashion of the world: ever as one comes up, another must go down; and so said, you leapt out of the bucket, and ran your way, leaving mee there all alone, where I remained a whole day, pined with hunger, and starved with cold; and ere I could get out from thence, receiving so many blows, that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied; Aunt, though the strokes were painful unto you, yet I had rather you should have them then my self; for you are stronger, and better able to bear them, and at that time of necessity one of us could not escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisdom and experience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter be persuades to, is the avoiding of his own perill: for nature teacheth us to love our own welfare, and he which doth otherwise, is crowned with nothing but the title of folly.

shewes the effects of covetousness, which never brings any thing home but losse and danger; and that policie cares not who pines, so he feel no pain, as appears by the Foxes tempting her into the Bucket. By their entering into the shee Apes Cave is shewed, the difference betwixt temperance and rashness, and how far good words will prevail before rude and churlish behaviour.

Then said dame Arsewinde to the King: I beseech your Majestie, mark how this dissembler can blow with all windes, and paint his mischiefs with false colours: a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betray'd me to my Aunt the shee-Ape, where ere I escaped, I was faine to leave one of mine ears behind me: if the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his memorie to be much better: besides he is apt to catch advantage from the weaknesse of language) I desire no better evidence against him. When said the Fox, willingly I will do it, and without flattery or falsehood, and therefore I beseech your Majestie lend me your Royal patience.

Upon a certain time the Wolf here came to me into the Wood, and complained unto me that he was exceeding hun-

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## The pleasant Historie

gry, (yet neuer saw him fuller in my life) but he would euer dissemble: at which presently I took pity of him, and said, I was also as hungry as he: so away he went and travelled half a day together without finding any thing; then began he to whine and cry, and said, he was able to go no further. Then hard by the foot of a Hawthorne tree, we espied a hole all covered over with Brambles, and heard a great rustling therein, but could not imagine the cause why: then I desired the Wolf to go in and look if any thing were there to profit us, (for some thing I knew there was) then said he; Cousin, I would not creep into the hole for a hundred pounds, till I know certainly what was therein, for there may be danger: but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art and Wit to save your self, I will stay here under this Tree till you return: but I beseech you make haste, and let me know what is therein as soon as you perceive it.

Behold my dread Lord the King thus he hath made me poor silly beast to go before into the hazard, and he who is great, strong, and mighty, did abide without in peace, wherein I expect no little friendship, for I would not endure the like danger for a Kingdom: but to proceed, I entered into the hole, and found the way dark, long, and tedious: in the end I espied a great light, which came in on the further side of the hole, by which I saw there lying a great She-Aspe, with eyes glimmering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with long sharp teeth, and on her hands and nails sharp as an Ellin, or Wockin. I imagined her at first a Parmazin, or Wabon, or else a Mercat, for a more dreadful beast I never beheld in all my life time; and by her side lay divers of her children, which like her selfe were cruel and sterne of countenance: when they saw me come towards them, they gaped wide with their mouths upon me, so that I grew amazed, and wish'd my self far from the harbor. But resolving with my self, that now I was in, I must quit my self as well as I could; I looked more constantly upon her, and methought she appeared bigger then Isgrim the Wolf, and the least of her brats much larger then my self (for a fouler company



## of Reynard the Fox.

company I neuer saw) they were all laid in foul stetter, rotten and durty with their own pisse, they were all daubed and clogged with their own dung, which stunk so filthy, that I was almost poisoned with the smell. For my own part I durst not but speak them safe, and therefore I said, Aunt, God give you many good daies, and blesse you and my Cousins, your prettie children: questionlesse they are the fairest of their ages that ever I beheld, and so surpass in beautie and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most princely issue. Auncy Aunt, we are infinitely beholden to you that doth add this increase and glorie to your familie. For mine own part (dear Aunt) when I heard you were laid down and delivered, I could not stay, but needs must come and visit you: When replied she, Cousin Reynard, you are exceeding welcome: you have found me like a slut, but I thank you for your kinde visitation: you are a worthe Gentleman, and (thorow the Kings Dominions) for your wit and judgement, held of singular reputation: you do much honour to our kindred and are famous for the means you work to their preterment: I must intreat you to take the charge of my children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and science, that they may know hereafter how to live in the world. I have thought of you ever since they were born, and resolved upon this, Cousin, because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your self with none but the good and the virtuous.

Whom glady was I when I heard those words to proceed from her, which kinnesse was onely because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no soul kin unto me: for my true Aunt indeed is onely dame Rukonaw, which standeth ponder: who indeed is mother of excellent children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this soul mother: Aunt, my life and goods are both at your service, and what I can do for you night or day, shall ever be at your commandement, and your childrens. Yet I most heartily wisht my self farre from them at that instant, for I was almost poisoned with their stink. And I pittied Ilegrim, who was sore griped with  
R hunger



## The Pleasant History

hunger all this while : and offering to take my leave, and saying, that my wife will think it long till my returne. She said, Dear Cousin, you shall not depart till you have eaten something, I shall take it unkindly if you offer it, then rose mee up, and carried mee into an inner Room, where was great store of all kinde of Venison: both the Red Deer, Fallow Deer, and Roe : and great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other Fowls, that I amazed much from whence such store of meat should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, she gave me a side and half a haunch of a Hind, to carrie home to my Wife, which I was ashamed to take, but that she compelled me : and so taking my leave, and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart thence, much iosed that I had fared so well.

Now being come out of the Causay, I spied whereas Ilegim lay groaning pitifully, and I asked him how he fared : He said, wondrous ill, and so extreemly ill, that (dear Nephew) without some meat I die presently : then did I take compassion on him, and gave him my wifes Token, which preserved his life, and for which then he gave me a world of thanks; though now he hate me extreemly. But as soon as he had devoured up my Venison, he said, Reynard, my dear Cousin, what found you in the hole : believe it I am now more hungrie then I was before, and this small morsel hath but sharpened my teeth to eat more. Then said I to him, Uncle, get you into that hole, and you shall find store of victuals, for there lieth my Aunt with her children: if you can flatter and speak her fair, you need fear no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I think ( my gracious Lord ) this was warning sufficient, and that which might have armed any wise spirit, but rude and barbarous beasts will never understand wisdom. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet he promised to follow my counsel : so forth he went into that foul stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described, which when he saw, ( being astonished ) he cried out, *Woe and alas,* I think I am come into hell : did  
ever

## Of Reynard the Fox.

ever creature for such fearful goblins? Drown them, for shame drown them they are so ugly, they are able to scare the Devil, why they make my hair stand an end with their horrid deformitie. When (saide she) Sir Legim, their creation is not my fault, let it suffice, they are my children, and I am their Mother. For ought their beaultie or hard labour to displease you: here was a kind man of theirs to pay, and is but newly departed, who is well known to exceed you both in birth, virtue and wisdom, and he accounted them fair and lovely, for your opinion I care not: therefore you may depart at your pleasure. When he repl'd (Dame) I would have you know, that I would eat of your meat, it is much better bestowed one mee, then on those ugly Archins. But she told him, she had no meat: Des (saide he) here is meat enough, and with that, offering to reach at the meat, my Aunt start up with her children, and ran at him with their sharpe nailes, and so clawed him, that the blood ran about his eares, and I heard him crye and howle so extreamply, that it appeared he had no defence, but to run out of the hole, as fast as he could. For indeed he came out both extreamply beaten, and extreamply bitten, and all his skin flaut like a Spanish Jerkin: and one year left behind as a paume of his manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered sufficiently and he said he had spoken as he found, for the Damme was a foule Witch, and the Litter most ugly monsters. Then I told him, how he should have commended their beaulties, and take them for his best of alliance. And he replied, he had rather have seen them all hang'd. When (quoth I) you must alwaies receive such rewards as now you do, but wisdom would do otherwise, a lie sometimes as much availeth, as a true tale: and faire words never come out of season, and better then we, hold it for a rule worthy Imitation.

Thus my Lord, I have told you truly how he came by his red night-cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare to denie, for all is true, without any addition.

## The pleasant Historie

CHAP. 23.

How *Isegrim* profered his Glove to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted; and how *Rukemaw* advised the Fox how to carrie himself in the fight.

**T**he Wolf answered the Fox: I may well forbeare (false villain, as thou art) thy mocks and scorning, but thine injuries I will not. Thou sayst, I was almost dead for hunger, when thou helpest me in my need: but thou wast falsely therein, for it was nothing but a Hare-bone thou gavest me, when thou hadst gnawed all the meat thereof: and therefore know in this thou injurest my reputation; again, thou accusest me of treason against the King, and to conspire his Majesties death, for certain treasure thou saiest is in Hutterloe: also thou hast abused and slandered my wife, which will ever be an infamie to her name, if it be not revenged: these things considered, I have forborne you long therefore now look not to escape; wherefore seeing there is no other testimony but our owne consciences; here before you my Lord the King, and the rest of my Noble Lords, friends and allies, here I will affirm, and approve to the last drop of my blood, that thou *Reynard* the Fox, art a false Traitor and a murderer; and this I will approve and make good upon thy boodie within the limits of the field boodie against boodie by which means our strife shall have an end; and in witness whereof I cast thee here my Glove, which I dare thee to take up, that I may have right for mine injuries, or else die like a Recrunt.

*Reynard* was something perplexed when he saw this, for he knew himself much too weak for the Wolf, and feared to come by the worst: but straight remembering the advantage he had, by reason the Wolfs force-claws were pulled away, and that they were not yet fully cured, he said, Whatsoever he be that saith I am a Traitor, or a murderer, I say he lieth in his throat, especially *Isegrim* above all others: poor fool, thou bringest me to the place I desire, and to the purpose I wish for, in signe whereof I take up the gage, and throw down mine, to approve all thy words, lies and falsehoods.

This

of Reynard the Fox.



This said, the King received their pledges, and admitted  
the battel, commanding them to put in their sureties, that  
the next morrow they should try the combat: then went forth  
the Bear, and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolfe: and  
for the Fox were sureties Grimbard the Brock, and Bycelus.  
When

## The Pleasaut History



### *The Morall.*

By the Wolfe  
challenging  
the Combat of  
the Fox, is  
shewed the  
madnesse of  
rage & fury, &  
how negligent  
it is in respec-  
ting it's own  
hazard, so it  
may do mis-  
chief: to the  
adversary.  
The Foxes  
accepting of it  
shewes how  
when policy  
hath no other  
shifting ho'e,

When all ceremonies were finished, the Ape take Reynard aside and said, *Prophete*, I beseech you take care of your selfe in this battell, be bold and wise, your Wicke taught me once a prayer of singular vertue, for him which was to fight: and he learned it of that excellent Scholler and Clarke, the Abbot of Budelo, and he that saith this prayer with a good devotion fasting, shall never be overcome in combat, and therefore my best *Prophete* be not a fraid, for to morrow I will read it over to you, and the Wolfe shall never prevaile against you. The Fox gave her many thanks for her favour, and told her his quarrell was good and honest and therefore he had no doubt of his happy successe: so all that night he rested with his kinsfolkes about him, who drave away the time with pleasant discourse. But Dame Rukew his Aunt, still beat her brastie how to work him advantage in the combat, wherefore she caused all his haire to be shaved of even from his head to the taile, and then she anointed all his body quite over with oyle Olive, so that she made it so smooth and slippery, that the

Wolfe

## Of Reynard the Fox.

Wolf could catch no hold of him: besides he was round, fat, and plump of bodie, which much availeth to his advantage: when she advised him that right to drink exceeding much, that he might be more apt to pisse in the morning, but in no wise to shed any till he come into the field: then (said she) when you are in the fight, and see time fitting, pisse upon your bush tail, and strike it in the Wols face, and as near as you can into his eyes, by which means blinding his sight, he shall be little able to offend you: and but at these especial times keep your taile as close as can be between your leggs, least hee catch hold thereon, and pull you to the ground: also look carefully to your self at the first, and by all means shun his blowes, making him to toyle and runne after, especially there where most dust is, and spyring it up with your feet, make it sic in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him where you may do him most mischief, ever and anon striking him on the face with your taile full of pisse, and that will take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will so tire and wearie him, that his feet not being fully cured of their hurt by the losse of his shoo's, which you caused to be pulled off) he will not be able to pursue you: for though he be great, yet his heart is little and weak. This (Pephe) is mine advice, and assure your self in these cases, Art prevail-eth as much as courage: therefore regard your self well, that not onely your selfe, but your whole family may gain honour and reputation from your fortune: as for the charms of praier which your Uncle Martin taught me by which you may be invisable, it is this which followeth. then laying her hand upon his head, she said, Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Ras-bue, Gorfons, A sbuif'o. Now Pephe, assure your selfe you are free from all mischief or danger whatsoever, therefore go to your rest, for it is neer day, and some sleep will make the bodie better disposed,

The Fox gave her infinite thanks, and told her she had bound him (to her) a servant for ever: and in those holy words she had spoken, he had placed his confidence unremovable and so he laid him downe to rest under a Tree in the grasse, till it was

that then it grows desperate, and will out-face any thing to the uttermost danger.

By the five Apes countell is shewed, the care of a true friend, which is then ever most busie, when he sees his companion in danger, and leaves no way unsought that may free him from trouble.



## The pleasant Historie

was Sun rise at what time the Otter came up to him and awaked him, and gave him a fat young Duck to eat. saying, Dear Cousin, I have toiled all this night to get this present for you, which I took from a Fowler, here take and eat it, and it shall give you vigour and courage. The Fox gave him many thanks, and said, it was fortunate Hansel, and if he



## of Reynard the Fox.

survived that day, he should find he would requite it : so the Fox eat the Duck without head or sauce, more then his hanger, and to it he drank four great draughts of water, and then he went to the place appointed where the lions stood, with all his kindred attending on him.

When the King beheld Reynard thus sworn and oyled, he



## The Pleasant History

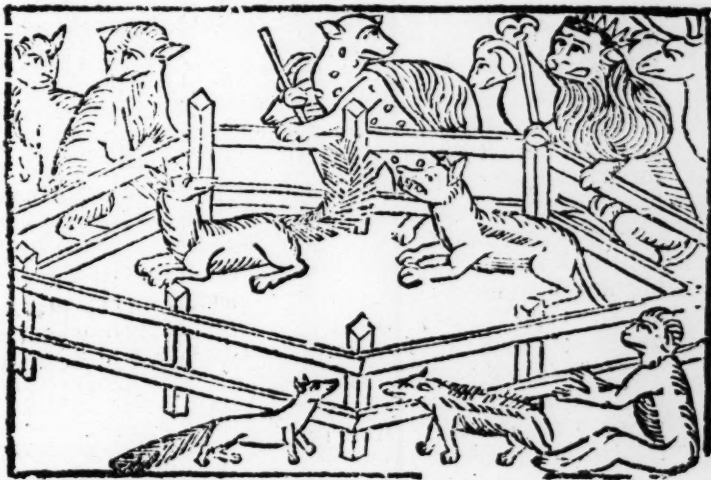
said to him : Well For, I see you are careful of your owne safetie: you respect not beutie so you escape danger. The For answered not a word, but bowing himselfe down humbly to the earth, both before the King and the Quens Pages, went forth into the field, and at the same time the Wolf was also ready, and stood boasting, and giving out many proud and vain: orious speeches. The Marshalls and Rulers of the Lists, were the Libard, and the Wolfe. These brought forth a booke, on which the Wolf swoze, and maintained his assertion, That the For was a Traitor, and a Murderer, which he would prove on his bodie, or else be counted a Recreant. Then Reynaid took the booke, and swoze, he lied as a false Traitor, and a Thief, which he would prove on his bodie, or be accounted a Recreant.

When these ceremonies were done, the Marshalls of the field had them do their devoire. And then every creature rejoined the Lists, save Dame Rukenaw, who stood by the For, and had him remember the words and instructions she had given him, and call to minde, how when he was scarce set ten years old, he had then wisdom enough to pisse the darke st night, without Lanthorn or Candle-light, or the help of the Moon, when any occasion required him: and that his experience was much greater, and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions: and therefore to work so as he might win the day, which would be an eternal monument to him and his family for ever. To this the For answered (My best Aunt) assure your self I will do my best, and not forget a tittle of your counsel, I doubt not but my friends shall reap honour, and my foes shame by my actions: to this the Ape said, Amen; and so departed.

## of Reynard the Fox:

### CHAP. 24.

Of the Combate betwixt the Fox and the Wolf; the event, passages, and victori.



W hen none but the Combataants were in the Lists, the Wolfe went toward the Fox with infinite rage and furie, and thinking to take the Fox in his fore-feet, the Fox leapt nimbly from him, and the Wolfe pursued him; so that there began a tedious chase between them, on which their friends gazed. The Wolfe taking larger strides then the Fox, often overtook him; and lifting up his feet to strike him, the Fox avoided the blow, and smote him on the face with his tail, which was all to be-pist; so that the Wolfe was stricken almost blinde, the pisse smarted so extremly. And he was forced to rest while he glaired his eyes, which advantage when Reynard saw, he scratched up the dust with his feet, and threw it in the eyes of the Wolfe. This grieved him worse then the former, so that he durst follow him no longer, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes smarted so sore,

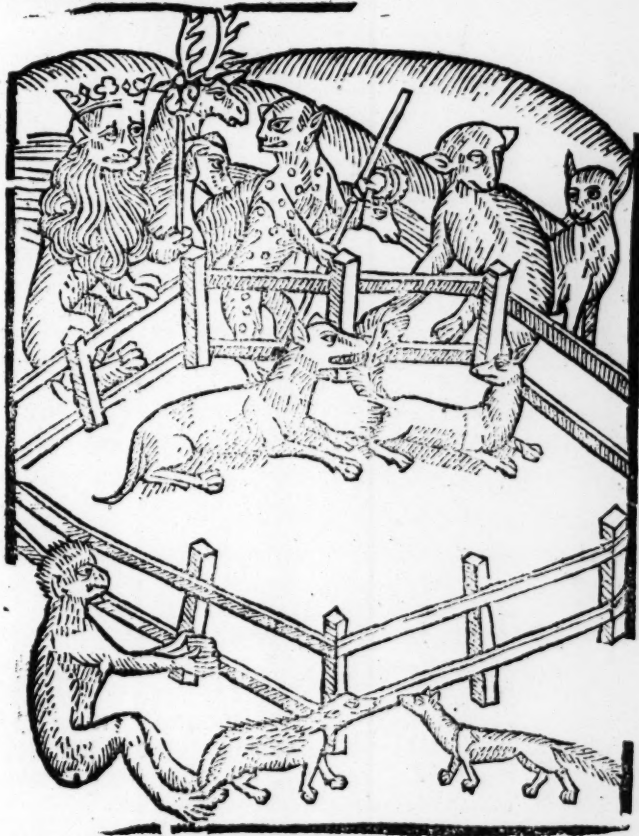
## The pleasant Historie

that of force he must rub and wash it away, which Reynard seeing, with all the furie he had he ran upon him, and with his teeth gave him three soze wounds on his head, and saying said; have I hit you *Wolfe*? I will yet hit you better: you have kill'd many a Lamb, and many an innocent beast, and would impose the fault upon me, but you shall finde the price of your knavery: I am markt to punish thy sins, and I will give thee thy absolution havelly. It is good thou use patience, for Hell is Purgatory, and thy life is at my mercie: Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneel down, and aske me forgiveness, and confesse thy self vanquished (though thou be the worst thing living) yet I will spare thy life, for my pity makes me loath to kill thee. These words made *Hogrim* both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to expresse his surp; his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of his surp he lift up his foot, and struck the *For* so great a blow, that he fell'd him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose up again, and encountered the *Wolfe*, that between them began a dreadful and doubtful combat. The *Wolfe* was exceeding furious, and ten time he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oyle, he could not hold him. Nay, so wondrous nimble was he in the fight, that when the *Wolfe* thought to have him surest, he would shift himself between his legs, and under his bellie, and every time gave the *Wolfe* a bite with his teeth, or a sway on the face with his tail, that the poor *Wolfe* found nothing but despair in the conflict, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus, many wounds and bitings passing on either side; the one expressing cunning, and the other strength; the one furie, the other temperance. In the end the *Wolfe* being enraged that the battel had continued so long (for had his feet been found, it had been much shorter) he said to himself, I will make an end of this combat; for, I know my tery weight is able to crush him to pieces, and I lose much of my reputation to suffer him thus long to contend against me. And this said, he struck the *For* again so soze a blow on the head with

## of Reynard the Fox.

with his foot, that he fell down to the ground, and ere he could recover himself, and arise, he caught him in his feet, and threw him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if he would have pressed them to death.



Now began the Fox to be grievously afraid, and all his friends also, and all Isengrim's friends began to shout for joy: but



## The Pleasant History

*The Morall.*

By the Wolves  
maius affail-  
ing the Fox,  
and the Foxes  
watching and  
pursuing of  
advantages, is  
shewed, the  
olly of rage &  
passion, and  
the discretion  
of temperance  
and wisdom;  
the first never  
bringing any  
thing but loss,  
the other com-  
monly accom-  
panied with  
honour and  
safetie. By the  
pistall is ex-  
pess, the sharp  
afflictions with  
which wis-  
dom ever pun-  
isheth rashnes,  
and by the  
losse of the  
Wolfs eyes, is  
shewed, that  
madnesse and  
rage is ever  
more but  
blindnesse.  
The Wolfs  
catching the  
Fox, and hold-  
ing him in his  
power, the  
clarification  
of some time is

but the Fox defended himself (as well as he could) with his claws, lying along, and the Wolf could not hurt him with his claws. His feet were so sore; onely with his teeth he sought to bite him: which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolf on the head with his fore-claws, so that betwixt the skin betwixt his brows and his ears and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolf to infinite torment, and he howled out extreme'y: then Hegrim wiping his face, the Fox took advantage thereof, and with his struggling got upon his feet.

At which the Wolf was angry, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his arms, and held him fast: never was Reynard in so great a strait as then, for at that time great was their contention: but anger now made the Wolf forget his smart: and griping the Fox altogether under him, as Reynard was endeavouring himself, his hand light into Hegrim's mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. When said the Wolf to the Fox, now either yield thy self as vanquished, or else certainly I will kill thee; neither thy dust, thy pisse, thy mocks, nor any subtil invention shall now save thee, thou art now left utterly desperate, and my wounds must have their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it was a hard election, for both brought his ruine; and suddenly concluding, he said: Dear Uncle, since fortune commands me, I yield to be your servant; and at your commandment will travel for you to the Holy Land, or any other Pilgrimage, or do any service which shall be beneficial to your soul, or the soul of your forefathers: I will do for the King, or for our holy father the Pope: I will hold of you my Lands and revenues; and as I so shall all the rest of my kindred; so that you shall be a Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to move against you: Besides, whatsoever I get of Hennes, Geese, Partridges or Plover, flesh or fife, you, your wife and childen shall have the first choice ere they come in my belly. I will ever stand by your side, and wheresoever you go, no danger shall come near you: you are strong, and I am subtil, we two joined together, what force can prevail against us?

Again,

## Of Reynard the Fox.

Again, we are so near in blood, that nature forbids there should be any enmitie between us : I would not have sought against you, had I been sure of victory, but that you first appealed me, and then you know of necessity I must do my utmost : I have also in this battel been courteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence, as I would on a stranger, for I know it is the dutie of a Nephew to spare his Uncle : and this you might well perceive by my pruning from you, I tell you it was an action much contrary to my nature ; for I might often have hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me by any thing, more then the blemish of your cic, for which I am sorry, and wish it had not hapned : yet thereby know that you shall reap rather benefit then lose thereby, for when other Beasts in their sleep shut two windows, you shall shut but one. As for my wife, children, and lineage, they shall fall down at your feet before you in any presence : therefore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poor Reynard to live. I know you will kill me, but what will that avail you, when you shall never live in safety for fear of revengement of my kindred : Therefore temperance in any man's wrath is excellent, whereas rashnesse is ever the mother of repentance : but Uncle, I know you to be valiant, wise, and discreet, and you rather seek honor, peace, and good fame, then blood and revenge.

Hegrim the Wolf said ; Infinite dissembler, how fain wouldst thou be free'd of my servitude ? How well I understand thee, and know that if thou were safe on thy feet, thou wouldst forswear this submission : but know, all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ransom ; for thee and thy friends I esteem any thing not, nor be true any thing thou hast uttered : so well I know thee and am no bird for thy Lime-bush chaffe cannot deceive me : How wouldst thou triumph, if I should believe thee : and say I wanted wit to understand thee but thou shalt know, I can look both on this side, and behold thee ; thy many deceits used upon me, have now armed me against thee. Thou saist thou hast spared me in the battel : but look upon me, and my wounds will shew how falsely thou liest, thou

your fools, but never gives them grace to enjoy the benefit. The Foxes flattery of the Wolf, shewes, That whensoever wisdom is oppressed, it hath yet still one temperate means to gether to gain his own liberty ; and that fair words do ever either vanquish, or astonish lastly, by the weak Foxes conquering the strong Wolf, is shewed, that in all these accidents of change, neither force, rage, nor violence do prevail so much as wisdom, discretion, and temperate and wary carriage.

## The pleasant Historie

thou neuer gavest me a time to breath in, nor will I now give thee a minute to repent in; and the rather when I think of the dishonour thou dost to my bed, and how inhumanely thou dost ravish my dear wife, Dame Arlewinde.

Now whilst Igrim was thus talking, the Fox bethought himself how he might best get free, and thrusting his other hand down between his leggs, he caught the Wolf fast by the floures, and he hanging him so extreemly and hard thereby, that he made him sink and howl out with the anguish: then the Fox drew his other hand out of his mouth, for the Wolf was in such wondrous torment, that he had much ado to contain himself from swearing: for this torment exceeded above the pain of his cle, and in the end he fell over and over in a swoond: then presently Reynard leapt upon, and drew him about the Lists, and dragg'd him by the legs, and struck, wounded, and bit him in many places, so that all the whole field might take notice thereof.

At this all Igrims friends were full of sorrow, and with great weeping and lamenting went to the King, and prayed him to be pleased to appease the combat, and take it into his own hands: which suit the King granted, and then the Lybard and the Lesson (being marshals) entered the Lists, and told the Fox and the Wolf that the King would speak with them, and that the battel should there end, for he would take it into his own hands, and determine thereof: as for themselves they had done sufficiently, neither would the King lose either of them: and to the Fox they said, the whole field gave him the victory.

The Fox said, I humbly thank them, and what pleaseth my Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey, for mine ambition is no further then to be victor: therefore I beseech you let my friends come to attend me, that I may proceed by their advice. They answered, it was reason: so presently came forth dame Slopecard and Grimbart her husband, dame Rukenaw with her two sisters, Bitelus and Fulrumpe her two sons, and Malice her daughter, the field House, the Weasel, and above an hundred which would not have come, if

## Of Reynard the Fox.

If the Fox had lost the conquest, for to him that hath lost out, will ever flock attendants; but to him that is in love, will nothing but contempt follow. Alas, the Fox came to the Barber, the Miller, & both their wives Pauncerrotie, and Oudgale; and the Ostrich, the Martin, & the Fitchew, the Firrle, the Squirrel, and a world more then I can name, and all because hee was the victor: nay divers which before had complained of him, were now of nearest kindred; and ready to do him all service. This is the fashion of the world; he that is rich and in favour, can never be poore or hungry for friendship, every one will seem to love him, every one will imitate his fashions.



Then was a solenne feast held; Trumpets were sounded, Cornets winded, Shalwms, and all instruments warbled, and every one cried, Praised be heaven for this glorious conquest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and received them with great joy and gladnesse: then asked their opinions whether he should yield the victory to the King or no: and Dame

## The pleasant Historie

Slopard said, yea by all meares Cousin, for it stands with your honour, no, may you deny it. And (so the Marchalls going before) they went all to the King, guarding the Joy on every side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrells sounding before him.



When

## of Reynard the Fox.

When Reynard came before the King, he fell on his knees, and the King bade him stand up and said to him Reynard, you may well reioyce, for you have won much honour this day: therefore here I discharge you, and let you tra, to go whither your own wil leads you, for all consultations I take upon my self, and will haue it discust by the wisest of the Kingdom, as soon as Ilegimus wounds shal be cured, at what time I wil send for you, and so proceed to iudgment.

My worthy and dread Lord (said the Fox) I am well ap-  
paid with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came  
first to your Highnesse Court, there were many malicious  
persons which sought my life (whom I never injured) but  
they thought to overcome me, by joining with mine enemies  
against me, and thinking the Wolf had greater fauour then  
I with your Majestie: this was the ground of their indigna-  
tion, wherein they shewed their simplicitie, not to alter the end  
which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great kennel of Hounds  
which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a dunghill,  
where they waited for such as should bring them meat, a-  
non they saw a Hound come out of the kitchen, which had  
thence brought a goodly rib of Beef: but the Cook pursu-  
ing him, threw hot scalding water after him, and scalded  
all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding away he went  
with his booty: but when his fellows perceiued him, they  
called to him, and said; O how much art thou bound to the  
good Cook which hath given thee that goodly bone so well  
furnished with flesh; but the Dog replied, You speak accor-  
ding to your knowledg, and praise me in such sort, as you  
see me before with the bone in my mouth; but if you please  
to look upon me behinde on my buttocks, you shall finde  
how deariy I paid for it; and they beholding how he was  
scalded, and all the hair and skin slayed from his hinder  
loins: they began to be agast and amazed at his torment;  
neither would they any more of his fellowship, but fled and  
ran away from him. In the same sort (my Lord) these false  
and unworthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, possesse



## The Pleasant History

their desires, and are mighty and renowned: then do they extort, pill and pill the poor and needy, and eat them up like so many hungry starved Hounds; for they are the dogs with bones in their mouths, no man dare to meddle with them, but presse all their actions: no man dare offend them; nay, many assist and help them in their unlawful actions, onely that they may lick their fingers, and be partakers of their exortions

O (my dear Lord)! how can those men go safely, which go thus blind-fold? O; how can they expect but a shameful fall, whose steps are so uncertain? neither can any man pity them when their works are disclosed; but continual curses and upbraidings follow them to the grave with destruction: many of these have lost their haire (which is their friends) as the Hound did, and have none left to cover their mischiefs, but all forsake them as the Hounds did the dog which was scalded.

- My gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this moral example, and it will nothing impair the greatnesse of your virtue, for doubtlesse many of these evil exorting creatures are under your subjection, both in Towns, Cities, and great Lords houses, who out-face the poor, and sell away their freedoms and priviledges, and threaten things upon them which they never knew, thought, or imagined, and all to make up the Common-wealths of their own particular profits: but the ends of such are vile, and heaven hath for them a judgement: but of these errors I hope none shall justly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquite us nobly from the same, I fear no creatures accusations; for I will ever be the for, though all my foes sweare to the contrary. My Lord, you I adore above all mortal creatures living; nor can any wickedness divert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last gasp; and though malice have told your Highnesse to the contrary, yet I have ever disproved them, and so will do to the last moment.

## of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 25.

How the King forgave the Fox all things, and made him the greatest in his Land; and of his noble return home with all his kindred.

**T**he King said; Reynard, you are one that owe me homage and fealtie, and I hope I shall ever enjoy it: And for



## The pleasant Historie

your service, here I make you one of the Lords of my Privy Counsel. Take heed you do not any thing unworthily, for here I place you in all your power and authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truly. For as long as you employ your wit unto virtuous actions, so long the Court cannot misse you: for you are a Star, whose lustre exceeds all other, especially in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Therefore remember the Word you your self told me, and be a lover of truth and equitie. From henceforth I will be governed by your wisdom, and there shall not breath that creature in any Kingdom which shall do you injury, but I will highly revenge it. This you shall proclaim through all the Nation, and be the chiefest Governour in the same, for the Office of High-Justice here I freely bestow upon you, and I know you may reap great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King, but he told them it was much short of that he intended to do for their sakes; and advised them all to admonish him to be careful of his faith and loyalty. This said Dame Rukewaw, Wellere it my Lord, we will not fail in that point, neither fear you the contrary: for should he prove otherwise, we would renounce him. When the For also thanked the King with fast and courteous words, saying; My gracious Lord! I am not worthy of these high honours you do me, yet will ever studie with my best ice how to deserve them: nor shall my best counsel at any time be wanting. And this said, he took his humble leave of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruin the Bear, Tibbert the Cat, and Ansewinde and her children, with the rest of their kinage, drew the Wolf out of the field, and laid him upon soft litter and hay, and covered him all over very warm, and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of five and twenty, by the help of many skilful Leeches and Surgeons. His sicknesse and weaknesse was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chafed him on the temples,

# of Reynard the Fox.



## The Moral.

By these how  
 done to  
 the Fox by the  
 Lion, is shew-  
 ed, that seldom  
 one good sur-  
 vives cometh  
 with a na-  
 ther, and he  
 that hath once  
 a chievel fame  
 and renown,  
 to him will the  
 world fly, and  
 dignity on di-  
 ni y shall be  
 heaped upon  
 him: as on the  
 contrary part,  
 he that is once  
 fallen, either in  
 state or repu-  
 tation, it is a  
 thing of much  
 difficulty to  
 see him advanced  
 without mira-  
 cles, or worldly  
 men are said to  
 be like Dogs,  
 which when  
 one of their  
 own kinde is  
 down, all the  
 rest will fall  
 among it

ples and under the eyes, till hee leapt out of his swoone, and  
 boyled so loud, that all were amazed which heard him: but  
 the Physicians gave him Cordials to drink, and a decoction  
 of potion to make him sleep. And then comforted his wife,  
 telling her there was no danger or peril of his life. So the  
 Court waked up, and every Beast returned to his own home.

## The Pleasant History

upon him and worrie him. But wise men, or good men (for both are scarce) are said to be like Hogs; which when one of their kinde is downe, all the rest will presently assist and help him.

For any thing else contained in this Chapter, it is either Moralized by the speeches of the Fox, or else by the Author.

Amongst the rest, Reynard the Fox took his leave of the King and Queen, they desired him not to be long absent from them. To whom he answered, that he would be ever ready at their service, as was his bounden duty; and not himself alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And so begging licence of his Majestie in all solemne manner, and with fair speech, he departed the Court.



## of Reynard the Fox.

Was neuer creature that ever flattered braver, or to better purpose, for he that could do the like might be a Pastor of the eight liberal Sciences. And no Lord whether Spirituall or Temporall, but would have an eare open for all his language. For dyed he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeed he that hath no alltance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardly prosper, as the world goeth: Though he want his heir, yet if he have his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plain dealing is now an exile, and Cōfētiousness and fraud have taken possession of his Tenements: not the Popes Palace, the Court of Emperours, Kings and Princes cannot be excepted of this error.

Money is now grown the onely Favorite of the times; the very Church-Fool, and the Countrey worship: it can purchase all things, defend all things, and confound all things: And mad men travell over the world, to gain this folly, this fashion: Who is not a true Fox, is but a beast of base estimation.

This is the worlds custome, and what will become of the use, the wise man can hardly judge or imagine: Only that these hainous sins of falshood, Theft, Murder and Ambition, can never walk but hand in hand with Judgment: From which I heartily pray that the hand of the Highest will defend us, and make us walk in those paths which shall be suitable to vertue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdeeds are not fit Themes for me to treat of, since at the last day every one is sure to give an account for his own behaviour.

With Reynard all his friends and kindred to the number of forty, took their leave also of the King, and went away with the Fox, who was no little glad creature that he had sped well, and stood so far in the Kings favour: for now he had power enough to advance whom he pleased, and pull down any that envied his fortune.



## The Pleasant History

After some travell the Fox and all his friends came to his  
Worrough, or Castle of Malpardus; where every one (in noble  
and courteous manner) took leave of other, and Reynard bid



to every one of them great reverence, and thanked them for the  
love and honour he had received of them; protesting ever-  
more to remain their faithfull servant, and to second them in  
all

## of Reynard the Fox.

all things wherein his life or goods might be attainable unto them : and so shook hands and departed.

The Fox went in to Dame Ermelin his wife, who welcomed him with great tenderness: And to her and her children he related at large, all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court: and mist no tittle or circumstance therein. Then grew they proud that his Fortune was so excellent: and the Fox spent his days from thenceforth (with his Wife and Children) in great joy and content.

Now whosoever shall relate unto you (of the Fox) more or lesse then you have heard: I would not wish you to build any faith upon his reports. Delyt his which you have already heard or read, you may bestere at your best pleasure: Or if any refuse, he shall notwithstanding be accounted an Heretick, since he that onely saw it, may best give credit unto it; and yet many in this world believe the things they have not seen.

Besides, there are many Plays, both Comick and Morall, which figure out things that never were, onely to make use and benefit of the example: That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Vertues. In like manner, this Book, though it contain but matter of jest and sport, yet if he look seriously therein, he may haply find much Morall matter and wisdome, worth his consideration. Goodness nor any Good man shall he find in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his own part as his Conscience shall instruct him: If any man find himself too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment: If any man be clear, let him hold on his path, and avoyd stumbling: And if any take distast or offence, let him not blame me, but the Fox, for it is onely his language. But if all things suit to my wish's imitations, I shall then be encouraged to salute the world with a second part: clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not more, yet every whit as pleasant Morals.



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G. Great George under this Marble  
stone is laid

E. Encourtesy & Flattery are now betraid

O. O could I hear him now much to  
lament

R. Recalling time y<sup>t</sup> he hath <sup>spent</sup> ~~spend~~

G. Great Gentlemen w<sup>th</sup> him could  
not prevail

E. Evermore they must lie in foale

George's Testament

Re say did he not <sup>from</sup> take y<sup>e</sup> sayd <sup>from</sup> ~~from~~

Endravouering for to stop Bawdy

in good honest men he did hang  
array & burning w<sup>th</sup> <sup>all</sup> his law

of fear he might behold

say my Dear husband for her  
y<sup>e</sup> could

you are Feigley to y<sup>e</sup> King  
Endravouering Duke m<sup>u</sup>m<sup>u</sup> mouth & being  
where of Death w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> little thing

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